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FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 1995

IN SECTION TWO

Cabinet backs down on violence Bill

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, was yesterday forced by Tory party pressure to back down on a bill extending the same statutory rights of protection against domestic violence to cohabitants as married couples.

The concession to the Conservative right wing cast doubt over the Lord Chancellor's chance of securing the passage of a separate bill on divorce-law reform, despite a Cabinet decision yesterday to include it in the Queen's Speech.

As the Government cancelled Monday's planned third reading of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, Lord Mackay agreed to reconsider the measure and is expected to make changes, or shelve it altogether.

The Lord Chancellor told Cabinet colleagues he would "reflect" on amendments proposed by a delegation of Tory MPs yesterday, which stressed the primacy of marriage over other forms of cohabitation.

The amendments seek to delete clauses that would give any woman living with a man the same right as wives to secure the eviction of their partners and occupation of the home.

While Lord Mackay intends to incorporate the amendments and still push through a bill, he may face Labour opposition if he carries the bill as his right-wing critics want.

The bill has been水印ed by a group of Tories at a late stage of a "fast-track process", intended for non-controversial measures. Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said it was open to question whether the Government could "get through even the most moderate measures of reform in the face of a right-wing extremist rump".

Although the Cabinet had approved, without discussion yesterday, the planned divorce reform bill, which would end the concept of fault, introduce a system of mediation and provide for a 12-month cooling-off period, a lobby of Tory MPs, including John Redwood and John Patten, plans to oppose the measure.

There is still ministerial pressure behind the scenes on Lord Mackay to withdraw the divorce bill. But it is almost certain to be put through the Commons on a free vote if it survives. Mr Boateng said Labour supported the measure but that its support was not "unconditional". First victory, page 3

Russian leader 'still in charge' but political future now in doubt



Fighting talk: Boris Yeltsin, returning from the United Nations in New York, displays the robust style that he usually adopts when confronted by problems such as members of the press.

Heart scare puts Yeltsin on the brink

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The political future of Boris Yeltsin was hanging in the balance last night after the 64-year-old Russian President was rushed by helicopter from his country home to a Moscow hospital following another heart attack.

Although said to be mild, it was his second attack in less than four months and casts doubt over whether he will be physically fit enough to run for a second term in the Kremlin in next June's presidential elections, should he decide to do so.

Aides for the president, whose health has deteriorated markedly during his four and a half years in office, emphasised that he remained at the helm. But his condition was sufficiently serious for his staff to postpone his trip to China earlier next month.

The Kremlin is awaiting a final diagnosis on Mr Yeltsin's illness, expected later today, before deciding whether he will still host next Tuesday's one-day summit in Moscow with the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia. One top official said there was "not much cause for great optimism" that he would return to work in the next few days.

Last night Mr Yeltsin's staff blamed his illness on the stress of this week's summit in New York, where Mr Yeltsin appeared in high spirits, laughing and back-slapping with President Bill Clinton, but made little headway with Russia's

political problems – particularly the threatened expansion of Nato. His affliction was "linked to the intellectual, moral and physical stresses" of the trip, said Viktor Ilyushin, a member of the Kremlin inner circle.

In fact, Mr Yeltsin has been under pressure on other fronts for months. He and his allies face a disgruntled and disillusioned electorate which is widely expected to exact revenge in the December's parliamentary elections. His government has been split by squabbles, and torn asunder by Russia's disastrous war in Chechnya, which grinds on despite the signing of a peace accord in July.

Shock was followed by confusion in the Commons yesterday when MPs were told that Boris Yeltsin was dead and, eight minutes later, that he was alive.

Responding to false report from a Tory backbencher, Tony Newton, Leader of Commons, said the news would be "greeted with sadness and a degree of shock in the House". But minutes later another member having checked the facts, pronounced the president alive.

Inside Parliament, page 10

charge. There is no indication that he cannot carry out his duties."

Hours after Mr Yeltsin was rushed to hospital, the US had not received any official word on his condition. While asserting that American diplomats in Moscow were no doubt "in touch with their contacts", John Dinger, a State Department spokesman, said: "We do not have any further details at this time ... We don't have any further official word to give you on President Yeltsin's condition."

He added: "Obviously, we're concerned about President Yeltsin's health and we wish him a speedy recovery."

The lack of official communication between the two governments on the latest health emergency to befall Mr Yeltsin contrasted with the friendship displayed after he and Mr Clinton met on Monday. Mr Dinger, however, virtually ruled out the possibility that US-led Bosnia peace talks set to begin next Wednesday at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, would be postponed because of Mr Yeltsin's illness.

Even if it turns out to be a minor bout of heart trouble, it will further damage Mr Yeltsin's re-election prospects. Although he has yet to confirm that he plans to run, he has been behaving increasingly like a candidate – so much so that he presented President Clinton with two ice hockey shirts bearing the names "Clinton" and "Yeltsin". On the back, written large, was the number "96".

Comeback in tatters, page 13

Traffic wardens 'spies' for the police

JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

Police chiefs are considering using traffic wardens as their "eyes and ears" in the fight against crime.

They believe that the 4,691 wardens in England and Wales could become their latest weapon against criminals by radioing in any suspicious or illegal activities they spot while out walking the streets.

An unpublished report by the Association of Chief Police Of-

ficers' patrol group concludes that there is "some scope" for greater use of wardens who would free up beat constables.

The proposal is part of a larger study by ACPO's Patrol Project Working Group, which was accepted as forces' policy at a council meeting of chief constables yesterday.

According to the study, "traffic wardens provide some of the features of police patrol which are valued by the public."

In addition, they will protect their image and take legal action if necessary to prevent lo-

cal authority or private security guards using the titles "Police" or "Force", or copying their uniforms or livery on patrol cars. Chief constables have also rejected any proposals to have "two tier" policing with the creation of lower paid beat constables.

The confidential report con-

cludes: "The demand for police patrol exceeds the present capacity of the service to supply it... Therefore, more radical options need to be considered."

Supt George Hannah, who

helped draw up the report, said: "There's the possibility of them being extra eyes and ears for the police, especially as a lot have radios and could quickly report any incidents. These are things that need to be explored, but we want to ensure they don't become a two tier police force by the back door."

A spokeswoman for the pub-

lic sector union, UNISON, also said: "We would not want to put any members at risk by turning them into quasi police officers."

Touch me, feel me...the new language of the office

BARRIE CLEMENT

After years of "hands off" politeness in the workplace it is suddenly permissible – indeed desirable – to touch colleagues at work.

The Institute of Personnel Development will be told in its annual conference in Harrogate today that a bit of human contact is the way to clinch a busi-

ness deal or impress the boss. "Businessmen, please think again," says an expert in body language, says in a paper.

The crucial tactile experience of the handshake is also scrutinised. In England it is usual when greeting someone to pump the hand three times. In Germany only twice and in the USA five times. "Always give the same amount of pressure as you receive. For women, who usually have much smaller hands

further than the point of the elbow, I suggest that they spread their fingers apart when shaking hands with men. This avoids their hand being 'swallowed up' in a male grip and the feeling of being dominated."

Mr Pease suggests that in a formal interview, sales meeting or even a social gathering, one has less than four minutes to make an impression. What one says accounts for only 7 to 10

per cent of the impression one makes. How one says it accounts for 20 to 30 per cent.

There are three basic rules for people like the British who are less tactile than some other nations. One should nod one's head as one talks. Stud-

ies have shown that this will gain two to four times more co-opera-

tion, according to Mr Pease.

The level of one's eyes should

be kept below that of the other person. This will avoid an over-aggressive posture.

As for elbow touching, sub-

tlety should be the watch word so that touching is barely no-

ticed by the other person.

However, more snobbish stu-

dents of English etiquette might be moved to look down their noses at the advice from Mr Pease. He is an Australian.

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Alert Pill still on offer

A leading family planning centre says that it is continuing to offer women aged over 30 the brands of oral contraceptive Pill which were the subject of a Government alert last week. They will be available to "fully informed" women.

Page 2

£1.2m offer for Littlewoods

The board committee of Littlewoods, the retail and football pools company, met yesterday to discuss the £1.2m indicative offer for the company made by its former chief executive, Barry Dale. Page 24

Fears on City status

British fears that London's status as a financial centre could be undermined by plans now being discussed in Frankfurt for European Monetary Union. Page 15

IF HE STOPS PINCHING
YOU, TELL US AT ONCE



COMMENT

News analysis: Will Canada blow apart? Page 21

Polly Toynbee on the agonising dilemmas of Jayme Bowen's treatment. Page 23

Germaine Greer and the celibate student. Page 23

Wilkes's Diary: Is Norman Fowler heading for a political comeback? Page 21

Another View: Nicholas Baker in defence of the immigration "white list". Page 22

Leading Article: The temporary shelving of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill is an ill omen. Page 22

Weather: Scotland will be bright with showers and a westerly wind. Most of England will be sunny with rainy periods though the south will only brighten up later. Section Two, page 37

news

Stricken teenagers raise BSE fears

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Two British teenagers have been confirmed as victims of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease – the so-called human form of "mad cow disease" – heightening fears that it is possible for the infection to be transmitted from cattle to humans.

CJD, an incurable degenerative brain disease, is extremely rare under the age of 30, with only four other cases reported in the world to date.

The 16-year-old girl, who is believed to be still alive, is the youngest person to contract the disease in the UK. She is known to have eaten a meat dish containing cow's brain in Cyprus in 1989, although there have been no reported cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) on the island. She also occasionally ate beefburgers and corned beef.

The 18-year-old boy, who died earlier this year, had visited his aunt's cattle farm annually for eight years and drank unpasteurised milk. However, no cases of BSE have been reported in the herd.

Neither of the teenagers had any of the risk factors for CJD. They had not received growth hormone derived from human brain tissue, undergone transplants or tissue grafts, or brain surgery, according to reports in tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*.

The boy had a six-month history of memory loss and deteriorating school performance. His condition deteriorated with hallucinations, disorientation, speaking problems, unsteadiness, and he died nine to 12

months after the onset of symptoms. Analysis of his brain tissue confirmed CJD.

Professor Collinge, who was involved in both cases, says there was no evidence so far that any human case of CJD is related to exposure to BSE but adds: "The extremely young age of onset, and absence of known risk factors, inevitably prompts discussion of a possible link between [the illness] and the recent epidemic of BSE."

He points out that the four cases of CJD in teenagers –

from the USA (1978), France (1982), Canada (1988), and Poland (1991) – occurred in countries where BSE had not been reported when the cases were diagnosed. However, he concludes that, although the two cases may be "coincidental and of no particular significance," they re-emphasise the need for continued epidemiological surveillance of CJD".

The Department of Health confirmed earlier this week that it is investigating a possible fourth case of CJD in a dairy farmer with a BSE-infected herd. Scientists agree that the chance of four cases occurring among dairy farmers is statistically low, but they point out that there has been no increase in CJD among vets or abattoir workers who would also be expected to run an increased risk if BSE had jumped the species barrier. A Government report earlier this month confirmed that the number of CJD cases had doubled between 1985 and 1994, but this may be the result of increased surveillance.

IN BRIEF

Asda staff to ballot over Sunday pay

Supermarket giant Asda could be hit by industrial action in the run-up to Christmas over its decision to scrap double-time payments for Sunday working, a union warned yesterday.

A spokesman for Asda said: "Asda employees currently working on a Sunday will continue to receive their existing premium pay rate. From 1 November, colleagues who choose to work regularly on a Sunday will receive time-and-a-half." Shop stewards for the GMB general union representing 50,000 Asda workers agreed to ballot their members over the proposals.

Guinness appeal

The Court of Appeal reserved judgment on the renewed appeal by former Guinness chairman Ernst Saunders, Heron International tycoon Gerald Ronson, stockbroker Anthony Parnes and consultant Jack Lyons, who are challenging their conviction in 1990 of taking part in an illegal share-support operation to boost the value of shares during Guinness's successful takeover battle for the Distillers group.

DeFreitas libel

West-Indian born England cricketer Phillip DeFreitas accepted substantial undisclosed High Court libel damages over an article in the July issue of *Wisden Cricket Monthly* suggesting that England players of overseas origin would lack real commitment to the England team and would be motivated solely by a desire for personal advancement and achievement.

Rape charges

A man accused of three rapes since 1993 was remanded in custody until next Thursday by magistrates in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Dylan Rodwell, 23, of Slough, also faces charges of two attempted rapes, two indecent assaults and four assaults.

Car workers' unrest

Unions at Vauxhall, which has offered its 9,000 workers 3.5 per cent instead of a "substantial rise", will today inform the company of their intention to ballot workers on industrial action. Union representatives at Ford are planning their next move after an offer of only 3 per cent - they wanted 10 per cent.

Zoo ban hearing

A tribunal opened in Ashford, Kent, to hear the appeal by John Aspinall, owner of H. Aspinall's Wild Animal Park, against a ban by Canterbury City Council on keepers entering tiger cages, imposed after the death last November of Trevor Smith, 32, who was mauled by a Siberian tiger.

Murder inquiry

Police launched a murder inquiry after forensic examination showed that an accelerator had been used to start a fire in a house in Moss Pit, Stafford, where a woman's body was found after an explosion.

Michael Thornton

In his diary on 12 October 1995 John Welsh stated that author Michael Thornton had written a letter to *Gay Times* complaining that he was not referred to in Philip Hoare's recent biography of Noel Coward despite being widely known to be Coward's last lover.

This letter to *Gay Times* was not written by Mr Thornton. He had no wish to be referred to in Mr Hoare's biography nor has he claimed to be Noel Coward's last lover. We apologise to Mr. Thornton for our error.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Police rank and file say Met sexist

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

The head of the Metropolitan Police was yesterday accused by his rank and file of ignoring widespread sex discrimination and harassment of the force's 6,000 women.

Mike Bennett, chairman of the capital's police federation, made the attack at the organisation's annual conference. His remarks are a major embarrassment to Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, who has been keen to recruit more women to the ranks.

Mr Bennett's comments come as growing numbers of



Attack: Mike Bennett and Sir Paul Condon (below)

told by investigating officers: "Police do not do that."

She was accused of lying, of being frustrated and asked if she was a lesbian. Her family were also apparently asked if she was gay and her doctor was asked if she had psychological problems. The investigation was not carried out by officers trained in sexual investigation techniques.

In another case, an officer returning to work after having a child had her agreed and regular shift pattern changed four times in quick succession – making child care arrangement increasingly difficult. When she protested, she was asked to make up mind: "Do you want to be a police officer or a mother?"

A third woman claims she was the repeated target of harassment and intimidation by her inspector, which made her ill. The force has refused to move him while the case is being investigated but, in the meantime, has given her a letter promising to keep him at a distance.

One women officer said: "Every station has its own canter culture. The point is that at some stations such behaviour is not tolerated and stamped on immediately. Unfortunately, that is the exception rather than the rule."

Scotland Yard could not provide any figures. Last night, Sir Paul told the federation meeting that any form of discrimination or harassment was unacceptable.

Earlier, Mr Bennett said: "Commissioner, you cannot ignore any longer what is happening. You really must put out a stronger message to management and the force that discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. You must be seen to be doing something about it."

He highlighted one example where managers walked out of a training programme on discrimination and harassment. He said he had spoken to many women who had been on the receiving end of comments questioning their ability to work and be mothers, and he questioned why women in the force were still having to deal with harassment. He said: "We keep hearing from our female colleagues that they can cope, that they don't mind ... but I have to ask, why should they cope?"

"I regret having to include this in the speech, but I believe it is both necessary and unavoidable if we are to retain the confidence of all those we represent," he added.

He called on Sir Paul to set up a special unit to advise and deal with the problem – "along the lines of an in-house victim support system".

Yesterday, the federation said that there were 55 cases pending before tribunals and that Scotland Yard had settled many more claims. According to the federation, one woman who alleges she was sexually attacked by a male colleague was



It's a dog's life: Animal Aid protesters outside the Ministry of Defence over the use of animals in warfare research. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Surrey council in fraud office inquiry

DAVID HELLIER

The Serious Fraud Office said yesterday it was involved in investigating allegations of corruption at Surrey County Council.

The investigation, being carried out by the SFO in connection with the Surrey police, concerns contracts awarded to Surrey Operational Services, a company spun off from the council to bid for contracts in

competition with the private sector.

The SFO declined to give details of the investigation, although sources familiar with it said the police were looking at allegations of conspiracy to defraud, corruption and theft.

The sums involved are believed to be in excess of £1m. Surrey police said yesterday they had prepared a report which was passed to the Crown Prosecution Service earlier this

year. The CPS forwarded the papers to the SFO for further investigation.

Last November, two senior employees of Surrey Operational Services, working for the highway contracting department, were suspended amid allegations of financial irregularities. One of them has since retired and the other has left by mutual consent.

The council said yesterday that its own investigation into

the allegations could not be completed until the outcome of the criminal investigation.

The allegations are believed to involve overpricing by Surrey Operational Services on some contracts and underpricing for others. The company has won many of the highway maintenance and school catering contracts under competitive tendering. Since the allegations, members of the council say that auditing procedures

have been tightened and a new management team has been put in place.

The council is hung, with the Conservatives holding 34 seats, the Liberal Democrats 29, Labour eight and Independents five.

This is the first time the SFO has become publicly involved in a suspected fraud of local government. Normally it is brought in to investigate frauds in the private sector.

Clinic offers health-alert Pill

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

A leading family planning centre says it is continuing to offer women aged over 30 the brands of oral contraceptive Pill that were the subject of a Government alert last week.

Professor John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, says the pills will be available to "fully informed" women, with risk factors for arterial blood disease which increases their chance of heart attack and stroke.

Writing in the *British*

Medical Journal, he says that new studies which triggered the alert confirm the "amazing safety of all modern formulations of the combined pill with regard to ... venous thromboembolism [clots in the veins]."

The danger, even with the "risky" pills is half that of a clot in pregnancy. Other data shows the pills protect against heart attack and stroke.

In the same issue, Professor Walter Spitzer, lead investigator of one of the studies, accused the Government of "misusing and misinterpreting" unpublished data. The Committee on Safety of Medicines last

week advised 1.5 million women taking seven brands of the combined Pill, containing the synthetic progestogen hormones, desogestrel or gestodene, to change brands. Three independent studies have shown that they have twice the risk of blood clots as brands containing different progestogens.

Professor Guillebaud agrees with the CSM, however, that overweight women, those with varicose veins, a family history of blood clots, and those who are immobile should not be given Pills containing desogestrel or gestodene. Women under 30 will also be offered other brands.

The woman acted after discovering the boy had been netting up to £70 a day through fake charity sponsorship forms.

Mother launches poster campaign against son

PETER VICTOR

A mother has launched a poster campaign warning people not to fall for a charity fraud used by her 13-year-old son to feed his drug habit.

The woman acted after discovering the boy had been netting up to £70 a day through fake charity sponsorship forms.

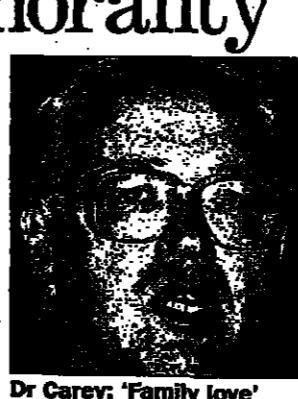
She is convinced he uses the cash for drugs.

The poster, which has been put up in the family's home town of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, bears a photograph of the

boy with a warning to the public: "This child is going around raising sponsorship money without any intention of handing the money over to any of the charities."

The youth has been arrested 14 times in three months mostly as a result of his mother reporting him.

The divorced 35-year-old mother-of-two says he has stolen from her family and she is determined to stop his life of crime. "We tried everything possible. He's coming people out of their hard-earned money and I want to stop it."



Dr Carey: 'Family love'

Archbishop pleads for return to Christian public morality

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has made his strongest plea yet for public morality to be based on Christian values. In a speech in Rochdale, Dr Carey said that "a better society will emphasise the goodness of faithful, stable, family relationships.

"There is no source of pain and psychological damage more disastrous than a family which goes sour and ends in abuse, rejection

and hatred." He argued that Britain is a far more Christian society than statistics would suggest. "There are some six-and-a-half-million church members in the UK. I believe New Labour is pleased to have reached 350,000. If, by analogy with church attendance, we looked at the number of people who regularly go to political party meetings, what a tiny group we should find."

"I do not believe it is anomalous that Christianity is built into our key national symbols and institutions, nor that so many people mind deeply about what the churches say and do," Dr Carey said.

Strengthened by this contemplation of the churches as the largest voluntary organisations in the country, Dr Carey argued for three changes to improve society. The first was to make explicit the shared moral values which ought to underlie legislation: "One of the conventional assumptions which

weakens our society is the view that what is good and right is just determined in the other direction."

Dr Carey warned against the "false gods" of "realism" or "social competitiveness" that might lead to an abandonment of the underclass: "None of us, whatever our political affiliation, can be sanguine about the widening gap between rich and poor. The Church is as committed as ever to its prophetic witness on behalf of the most disadvantaged and hopeless people in our cities".

The danger comes when people become indifferent to the very idea of shared values at all. We are not at that point. But we have seen enough of the

precipice to start moving determinedly in the other direction."

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The danger comes when people become indifferent to the very idea of shared values at all. We are not at that point. But we have seen enough of the

Someone suggested calling it
Parson's Nose but that

Mackay has first victory but Bill to face protest

PATRICIA WYNNE DAVIES
Political Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor yesterday succeeded in his campaign to include a package of measures to reform divorce law included in the Queen's Speech.

Contrary to speculation and he wishes of a vociferous minority of Tory MPs and Catholics, not a cross word was exchanged around the Cabinet table when the inclusion of the measure was approved. Nor was there discussion about the Bill, which has been on the list of legislation for the next parliamentary session for some time. But the fact that the Government is considering giving MPs a free vote is a clear sign as one Whitehall source conceded yesterday, that Lord Mackay is "not out of the wood yet" as protests mount.

The most radical package of changes for a quarter of a century would see the end of the "quicke" divorce for unreasonable behaviour or adultery, bring in "no-fault" divorce after a minimum 12-month period of reflection, and a new emphasis on mediation of disputes to replace court battles, with limited help from legal aid.

Britain has the highest divorce rate in Europe – almost 155,000 divorces were granted in 1994. John Campion, Family Law Action Chairman, who is also co-ordinator of the pro-marriage Cheltenham Group, said: "For a Lord Chancellor who claims to be a Christian and to speak for the party of the family to preside over the effective destruction of legal marriage is sheer hypocrisy."

Lady Olga Maitland, Conservative MP for Sutton and Cheam, said: "If you make it too easy it looks like a car-hire purchase that you simply return the car when you have had enough or you return the spouse when you have had enough."

The former Cabinet minister John Patten, a Catholic, and John Redwood, are emerging as

key opponents of the reform. Mr Patten wants the Bill buried. Mr Redwood, has suggested the "better ideas", such as a longer delay, could be enacted without abolishing the principle of fault.

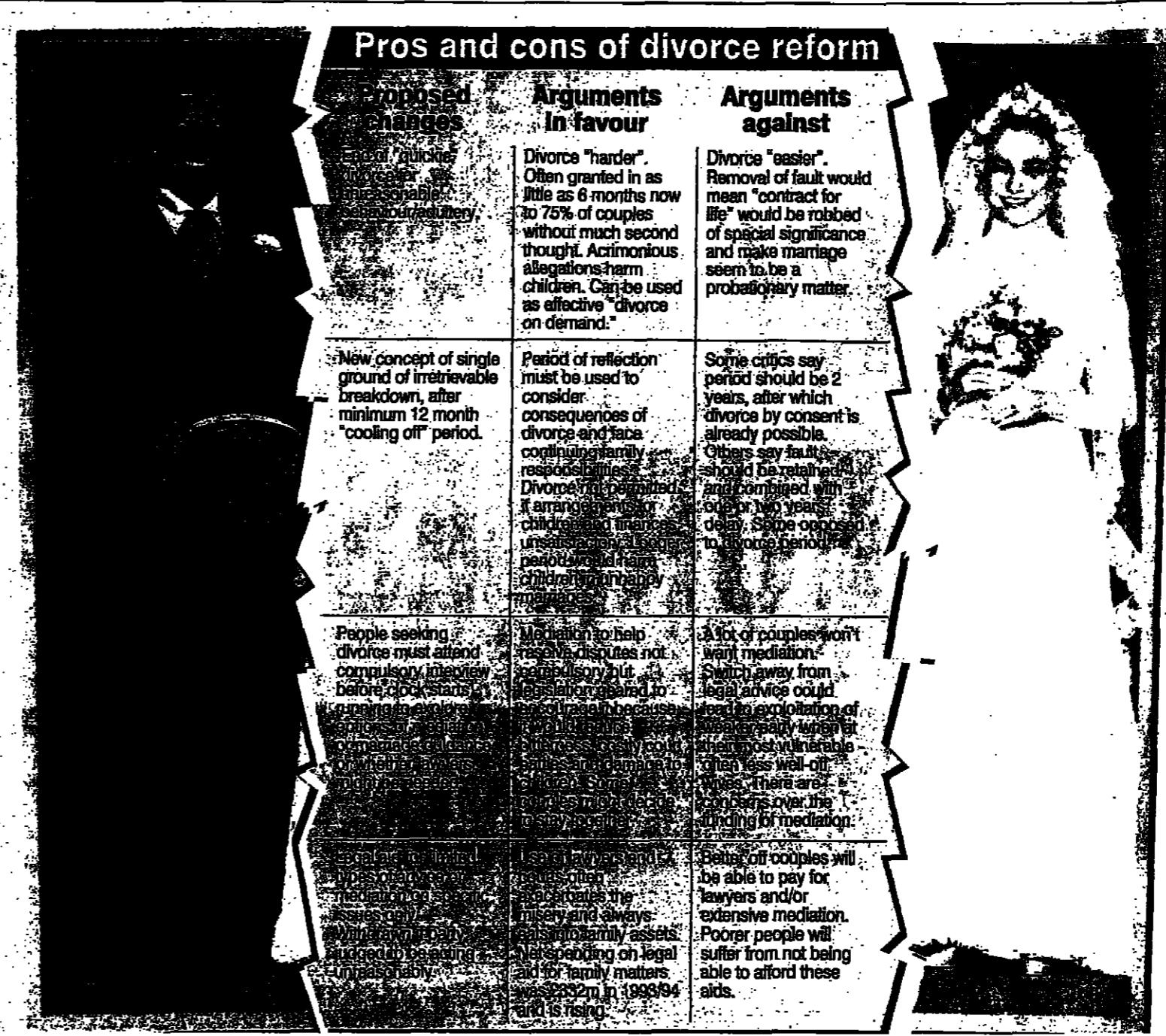
Lord Mackay is one of the firmest upholders of the institution of marriage, takes a recently-acquired responsibility for marriage guidance very seriously, and has pledged to introduce the changes after a long pilot period to avoid a fiasco like that surrounding the Child Support Agency.

But perhaps in an attempt to lower the temperature, he has said the divorce Bill could "come a cropper". Although the parliamentary arithmetic on a free vote would appear to come down on his side, with Labour supporting the broad principles, he could face protracted struggles over the details. Opposition has been mounting against the idea of a compulsory diagnostic interview to get information on mediation, marriage guidance and the law, amid warnings that many people do not believe their disagreements can be resolved amicably.

There are also concerns about the amount of help that would be available through legal aid, and fears that less-well off wives will lose protection.

Lord Mackay has consistently resisted demands for the package to be dropped, arguing in this spring's White Paper that current law permitted "easy, unilateral divorce on demand".

He believes greater use of mediation would reduce bitterness and the money spent on lawyers. It would also force couples to consider the consequences of their actions and face up to their responsibilities. The result would be a less confrontational system, which would be less damaging to children and which might even prompt some couples to try to stay together.



Changing times, changing values

JOHN MCKIE

Nowadays it tends to be between a couple and their two solicitors. But prior to 1857, it required an Act of Parliament to be obtained before a marriage was dissolved. Of course, Henry VIII had to usurp the Pope to obtain his first divorce.

Since his days, reforming the divorce laws has become slightly easier and, since 1950, more frequent. In Henry VIII's time, a divorce was only available to the rich and the influential, although remarriage was popular.

It was 1857 which saw the first major reform of the divorce laws. In that year, a divorce court was introduced with powers to deal with all marriage rifts.

The next major reform came in 1950 with the Matrimonial Causes Act, which decreed that there should be no petition for divorce during the first three years of marriage unless a High Court Judge ruled "exceptional hardship".

The grounds for divorce were defined in terms of adultery, desertion, and cruelty. In 1969, an attempt was made to abolish the idea there was a guilty party in every divorce case, and the notion of an "irretrievable breakdown" was introduced. A 1984 Act enabled couples to petition for divorce after only one year of marriage.

Currently four out of ten British marriages end in divorce.

MPs stall bid to help unmarried partners

PATRICIA WYNNE DAVIES

Eight Tory backbenchers yesterday forced the Lord Chancellor to put on ice a Bill to ensure that unmarried victims of domestic violence have similar rights to spouses.

Like the proposed divorce Bill to be included in the Queen's Speech, the measure had been the subject of detailed work by the independent non-party Law Commission. The Conservative-dominated Home Affairs Select Committee had supported the commission's

proposals. The retreat by Lord Mackay, said to be temporary, came after the eight backbenchers discovered the Bill had been proceeding through the House under the "fast-track" procedure used for non-controversial legislation.

The eight – Edward Leigh, the former Cabinet minister John MacGregor, Patrick Nicholls, Roger Gale, Ann Winterton, Julian Brazier, John Butterill and Lady Olga Maitland – said the Bill would

undermine the status of marriage. Julian Brazier served on the committee that has been giving detailed scrutiny to the Bill. Mr Gale admitted yesterday that the critics were to blame for not seeing the flaws earlier.

The Bill, which gives unmarried people the right to expect partners from a shared home – in some cases even if it was owned by the offending partner, has also been the subject of a critical press campaign.

After meeting Lord Mackay yesterday, the MPs claimed victory in their campaign to secure changes – three amendments have been tabled. The Lord Chancellor's Department said, however, that it had only been delayed for a week.

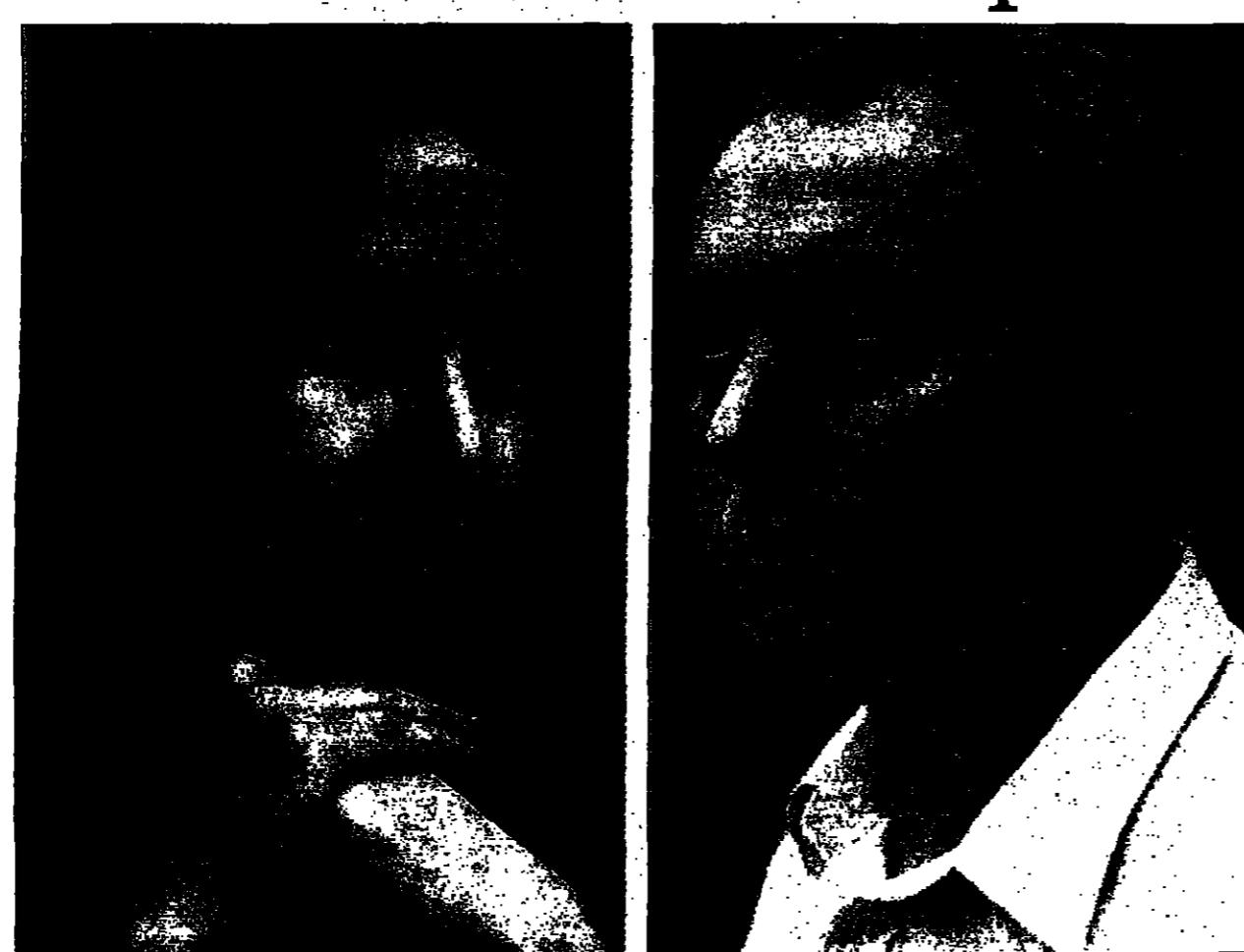
The Lord Chancellor's Department has been at pains to counter claims that girlfriends could simply take over their partner's flat or house, pointing out that domestic violence would have to prove in a court of law before a man could be forced to leave. "This Bill is about violence," said one exasperated spokesman. The Bill also creates no permanent change of legal rights in the for-

mer shared home. But the MPs insist that by extending the rights of unmarried women to stay in the home the Bill could be a disincentive to marriage.

Mr Gale said: "I think the Bill as it stands is dead in the water. I hope it will now be brought back in a form in which we can support it."

The Law Society said: "The worried expressed over the rights of cohabitantes are particularly misleading as they have had the right to be protected from domestic violence since the late 1970s."

Mediation eased the pain



"We are very lucky": Naomi, left, and Chris are thankful they agreed to mediation

CLARE GARNER

When Chris and Naomi Schrecker decided to divorce, they felt they had lost everything. Their seven-year marriage was dead and their young sons were caught in the crossfire. Only a visit to their local Family Mediation Service restored their faith in the future.

Mrs Schrecker, 40, was suspicious of any outside interference in her marriage break-up. Her husband had moved out and there was no question of a reconciliation. Reluctantly, she agreed to go with him to the centre in Bury, Lancashire, and four years on, both partners are thankful they did so.

"We didn't make decisions together or discuss anything. We couldn't communicate and it was frightening for the children," said Mrs Schrecker, a school teacher.

"I was very wary of going to mediation. I was on my guard and very defensive. I felt emotionally disabled when I got into

that room and worried that they would get me to agree to all sorts of things that would prolong the pain."

Instead, like her husband, she found that the counsellors took the heat out of the situation. They attended a joint session once a month and slowly it became possible for them to make plans in the short term.

Arrangements like Christmas and the holidays, as well as more mundane day-to-day matters, were always discussed within the confines of the centre.

"It made all the difference in the world," said Mrs Schrecker.

"They were very patient and dealt with us very tactfully. Slowly our relationship settled down to what it is now. It's quite formal but we do support each other, particularly professionally. I now have a productive, happy life and hope that in the future we can bring up our children in a way that brings the best out of both of us."

Mr Schrecker, 38, contacted the Family Mediation Service in 1991 because he was worried about the children.

"What I was looking for at that stage was a way of actually coming to some sort of practical agreement over the children being able to see both of us in a reasonably confrontation-free atmosphere," he said.

At the time, his two sons, now aged four and 11, were living with their mother in the family home in Prestwich, Manchester, and he was visiting them for a brief, tense period each day.

"It was a difficult sort of arrangement. It was very stressful because a lot of feelings of anger and betrayal tended to manifest themselves at the times when we handed over the children," said Mr Schrecker, also a school teacher.

The Family Mediation Service, managed by the nationwide charity NCH Action for Children, enabled the couple to

air their disputes in a safe environment.

"The bitterness was moved to an arena where it was properly dealt with rather than being spontaneous outbreaks," said Mr Schrecker.

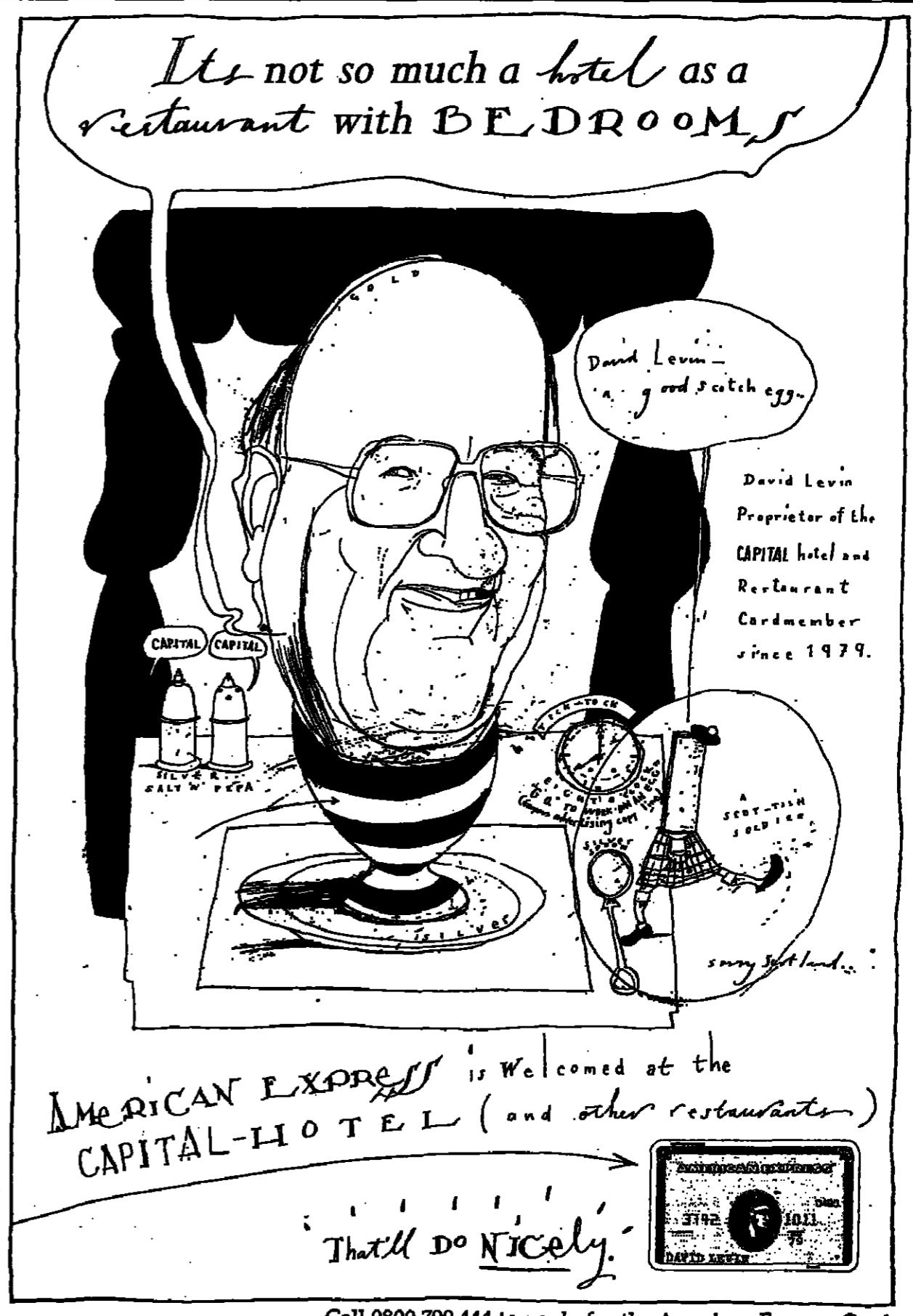
"The service helped each of us step by step to build a relationship with the children which allows for the other's presence."

Their divorce papers came through in June this year. The children now spend three days and two nights a week with their father and the rest of the time with their mother, a situation with which both parents are happy.

"Under the terms of the Children's Act the courts do not allow, thank God, for parties to come to their own arrangements over children," said Mr Schrecker.

"Unfortunately, I believe the service exists only in certain parts of the country," he added.

"We are very lucky to have had the service in the area."



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Year of the Lottery: Company celebrates massively successful first 12 months and aims to consolidate by stressing benefits

Camelot planning charm offensive to disarm critics

REBECCA FOWLER

The National Lottery organisers Camelot is preparing to celebrate its first anniversary with an advertising campaign concentrating on good causes that have benefited.

As the lottery came under further attack this week, Camelot's directors were putting the finishing touches to a marketing onslaught designed to enhance public perception of the game and emphasise the benefits that it brings.

A Camelot subsidiary will launch a merchandising line of lottery products, including keyrings, cuff links, computer software and earrings, and a series of £2 scratch-cards will be specially launched for Christmas.

In its first year, the lottery will have generated £5bn in sales, of which Camelot is entitled to 1.65 per cent for costs and profit. In peak weeks, 30 million people are estimated to play.

The man behind the PR strategy is David Rigg, director of communications. "Within a few weeks of launching we had a 90 per cent unprompted recognition of the lottery logo," Mr Rigg said. "But it is a huge amount of work. Last month alone, there were 800 articles on the lottery, and I've done 350 television interviews and 500 radio interviews this year."

The advertising campaign kicked off with the motto "I could be you", created by Saatchi and Saatchi - veiling the 1 in 14 million chance of winning the jackpot in simple optimism. Three years of market research had shown that the public did not want advertisements telling them how to spend their money, and picturing them on tropical beaches.

They were also more interested in the weekly game than scratch-cards.

"What the public responded to was the idea that they could win, and the odds were not against them," Mr Rigg said.

"Every time we considered the campaign we tested it against the words simple, easy and fun."

Camelot also leafleted 23 million households in the weeks leading up to the launch last November, outlining how to play. The response was phenomenal.

The public spent £55,000 on tickets in the first 12 minutes.

Mr Rigg's marketing machinery consists of a PR team, made up of 10 employees who deal with factual inquiries on the lottery; an external PR company; and a public affairs team that handles the more awkward question, including Camelot's vast profits - estimated to be around £500,000 a week.

Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot, was paid more than £30,000 last year, and all the directors received a one-off bonus salary. The bonuses, which will be repeated this year, were condemned as "astonishing" by Labour MPs.

Mr Rigg faced a PR crisis in the opening weeks of the lottery, the quest to identify the first jackpot winner. Since the lottery was launched only 20 per cent of jackpot winners have agreed to go public, compared to 50 per cent in Ireland.

After weeks of pursuit, the lottery frenzy reached a plateau. The next onslaught came six months later with the launch of scratch-cards, and an ambush of criticism that they encouraged gambling. Although weekly sales have fallen from £44.4m to £25m, the nation is apparently hooked on the quick-fix

lottery. Camelot launched its television campaign - "Forget it all for an instant" - because they were targeting people who would make impulse buys.

The latest campaign will attempt to create a warmer image of the lottery. In a series of full-page advertisements in the national press, Camelot will focus on the community projects that have received money.

But the new schemes have already attracted further criticism.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's National Heritage spokesman, attacked the idea of Christmas scratch-cards.

"Low-income families may be tempted to gamble in desperation rather than spend their money on their families and children," he said.



Marketing force: David Rigg, Camelot's communications director - more than 800 television and radio interviews in a year. Photograph: Brian Harris

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The Beatles

What brought them together again after so long?

Paul McCartney loved being a

Beatle. Spiteful remarks have always seemed to bring the McCartneys closer together. Linda, however, has always had a rough ride.

Over the past four years, a tape of her singing along to the chorus of "Hey Jude" has been privately circulated. Radio stations across America played it to show how bad she was.

George Harrison used to be so rude about the Beatles that his friends rarely brought up the subject. "As far as I'm concerned, there won't be a Beatles reunion as long as John Lennon remains dead," he said.

Ringo, John Lennon once said, is the one I worry about if there is no more Beatles. He was right.

Ringo has had terrible years of bad behaviour and trauma. But now, at 55, he has got his old job back.

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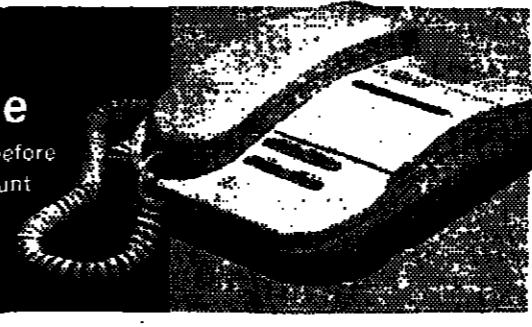
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A STORY OF THE BEATLES
BY STEPHEN COOPER
PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT

news

The world of work: Leadership qualities under the microscope as Institute of Personnel Development considers 'new realities'

Major and Blair cast as leading failures

BARRIE CLEMENT

John Major might be regarded as a "manager", but he is by no means a "leader", according to one of the world's leading experts on the subject.

John Adair, a specialist in the qualities needed for leadership, argues that Mr Major became Prime Minister by accident rather than design and that he had considerable difficulty with "the vision thing". He was a day-to-day manager of crises rather than a visionary, Mr Adair told the Institute of Personnel Development's annual conference in Harrogate yesterday.

Mr Major probably wanted to be Chancellor which was more suited to his talents as a manager, said Mr Adair, a visiting professor of leadership studies at the University of Exeter.

"He is a reflection of the amateur way in which people get to senior positions in British public life," he said. The Citizen's Charter, one of Mr Major's innovations, did not give people what they were looking for in a political leader.

In case the Labour Party might derive satisfaction from the analysis of Mr Major, Mr Adair argued there was nothing in Tony Blair's background to suggest that he would become "a really significant leader".

There was also a marked difference in the qualities required of a leader in the 20th century compared with that for the 21st, Mr Adair said.

Nelson Mandela was a leader for the next millennium and so was Gail Rebuck, chief executive of Random House UK. Margaret Thatcher and Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery were examples of the old-style 20th century leader.

President Mandela was "probably the only great leader" in world politics. He once described himself as the servant of the people rather than their leader and that marked him out from those identified with the present century. In South Africa



Leadership test: The Random House chief executive, Gail Rebuck, is a 21st century leader, says leadership expert John Adair, while (below) passes judgment on Nelson Mandela, Margaret Thatcher, Field Marshal Montgomery, John Major and Tony Blair Main photograph: Glynn Griffiths



today there was a great nation, a great crisis and a great person, a combination which produced the essence of leadership.

Ms Rebuck combined all the technical competencies of leadership with great knowledge and led her publishing company in a "feminist" way and without the aggressiveness normally associated with 20th century leaders.

She was both "a team builder" and a team member.

Lady Thatcher however had a clear sense of direction and a powerful determination to achieve certain goals, but she was by no means a member of a team. She had left relations with individuals to her deputy, Willie, now Viscount Whitelaw.

Viscount Montgomery was also a typical 20th century leader because while he was able to build a team, he never saw himself as a member of it

and found it difficult to co-operate with American generals during the Second World War.

The leader of the future was someone who could demonstrate a greater empathy and concern for people and issues.

Someone who did not rely on position or rank for their status. The 20th century leader was somebody who tended to have masculine and military qualities and who was arrogant but in-

spiring. According to Mr Adair, women looked for much more than just command. "They have a greater sensitivity and concern for issues and people, whereas the 20th century leader tended to emphasise the task at the expense of the person."

He predicted an increase in female leaders and that the contemplative Eastern approach would supersede the aggressive Western philosophy.

Organisations such as Marks & Spencer will be seen as "archaic" in the next century because its senior management was predominantly male while its workforce was largely female.

Humphrey Walters, a specialist in leadership training, said that organisations had hitherto used "high-fliers" as leaders, but they were often individuals who had learned to work the system, rather than good leaders.

Employees reluctant to give up idea of job for life

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The brave new world of "portfolio workers" hopping from job to job, accumulating self-confidence and expertise is a myth, according to a survey by the Institute of Personnel Development.

Despite all the "delaying", "downsizing" and the destruction of the old "psychological contract" between bosses and workers, most respondents thought their future lay with their current employer. Research showed, however, that the loyalty was not reciprocated by senior management.

Nearly half of the 1,000 employees interviewed regarded their current job as long term and a further 21 per cent saw it as an opportunity for career advancement within the same organisation. Only 16 per cent defined themselves as portfolio workers. These were primarily young - between 18 and 29 - with higher education qualifications. It was the least qualified who had the strongest attachment to their jobs. Sixty per cent of this group saw their position as long term.

"While many organisations are predicting the end of the career and lifetime employment, their employees are still banking on being in their jobs for the long haul," said Ewart Woolridge, the IPD's vice-president.

The discrepancy between expectations of job security and what employers are offering has created a "climate of suspicion". Although most respondents were still offering their employer a degree of loyalty, only a quarter unreservedly trusted their organisation to keep its promises to them.

Redundancies invariably hit morale harder than any other change in the workplace, the survey found. While the introduction of new technology,

modern working practices and take-overs could have a considerable impact on attitudes, job losses and lay-offs were found to have a "significant negative impact" on almost every measurable attitude to work.

Professor Cary Cooper, of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said employees needed to accept that jobs were no longer for life and that they should train to stay up-to-date and market and sell themselves.

Traditional career development was "going down the drain" and stress levels were shooting up, he said. "Companies have to start practising what they preach and value their human resources."

Stress was found to be a widespread. More than 40 per cent of senior managers and a third of middle managers said pressure of work had led them to take less holiday than they were entitled to. Nearly half of respondents said their companies contacted them with work-related questions when they were on holiday or off sick, and three-quarters felt obliged to go into work when they were ill.

The majority of people do not work simply for the money, a survey for the institute showed. Less than half of the 200 respondents said they would give up work if they won a fortune, and a quarter said they would carry on in their current job.

David Guest, professor of occupational psychology at Birkbeck College, said research showed that people valued job satisfaction more highly than pay. "Work is also a means of social contact and shared experience; it defines personal status and identity and provides a sense of control." He said companies still regarded pay as the key motivator and they should pay more heed to the importance of job satisfaction.

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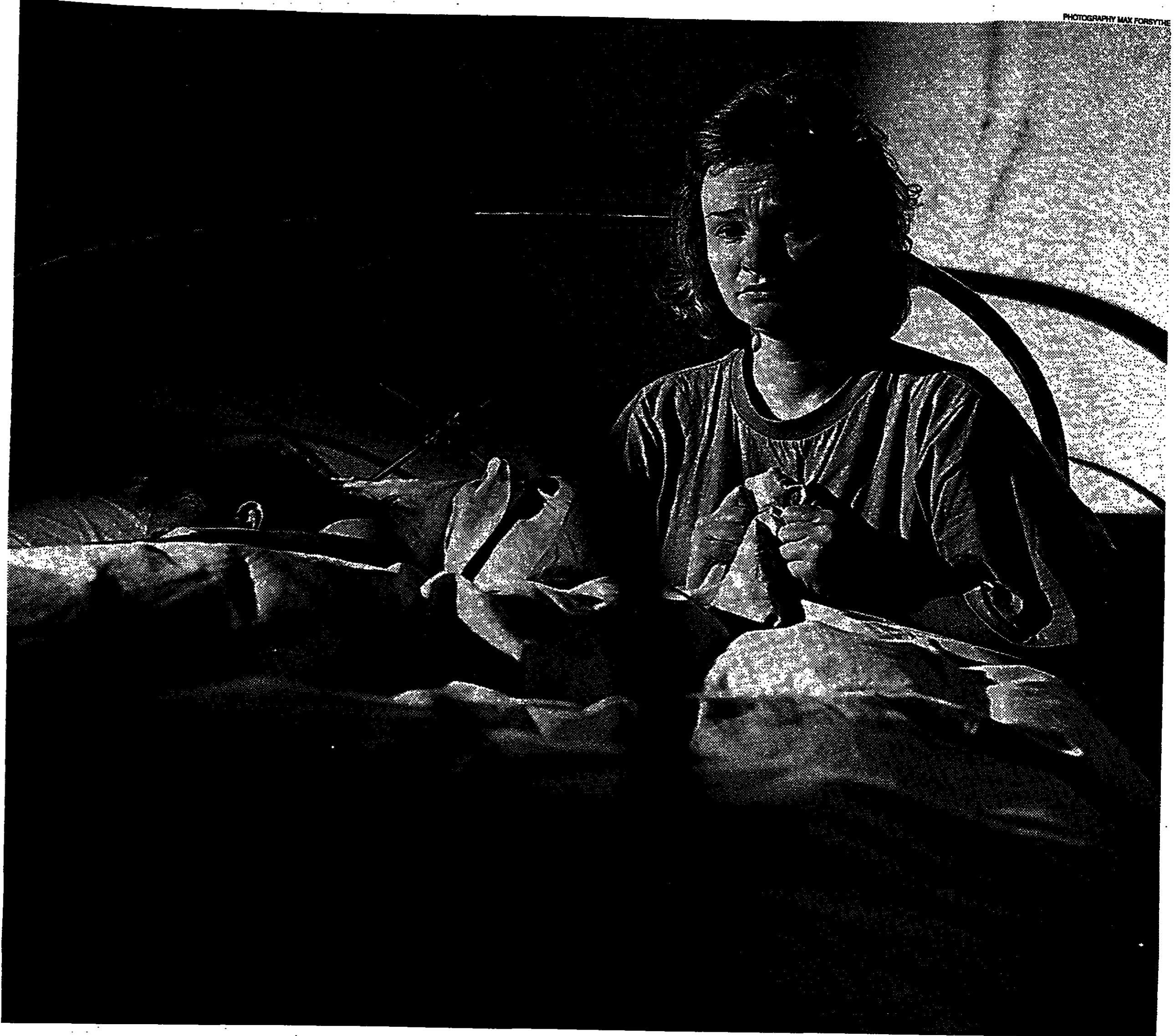
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news

Mother convicted of poisoning second child

LOUISE JURY

A mother already convicted of killing her four-year-old daughter by feeding her anti-depressant tablets was yesterday found guilty of a second poisoning charge.

A jury at Nottingham Crown Court convicted Celia Beckett, 34, of poisoning her daughter Debbie in addition to the poisoning and manslaughter of her eldest child Tracey. Beckett had admitted causing cruelty to Debbie.

As police suggested that the 34-year-old mother might be suffering from Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, a condition where she might have harmed the children to draw attention to herself, she was granted bail while psychiatric reports were prepared for sentencing.

But the Honourable Mr Justice Garland said: "The fact that I am giving bail does not make any indication of the possible sentence. I think we are all aware that manslaughter of this nature is a very serious incident indeed."

During the four-week trial,

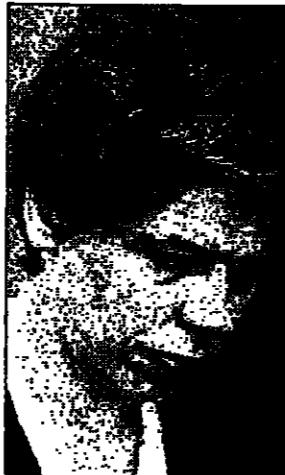
the prosecution accused agencies of a "wholesale failure" to protect Beckett's children — Tracey, Debbie, now aged six and in care, and a third daughter, Clare, who died aged seven in 1991. Nigel Rumfitt QC described the police investigation as "sloppy" and social workers "naïve".

Yesterday social services, North Nottinghamshire health authority and the police announced a full-scale inquiry into the case after admitting mistakes had been made.

Detective Superintendent Peter Coles said he would not use the word "sloppy", but added: "There were opportunities presented during the course of both Celia's life and the children's lives which called out for a holistic approach to be taken."

Stuart Brook, Nottinghamshire's director of social services, also acknowledged that there were lessons to be learnt.

Professor Olive Stevenson, a child protection expert, is to review whether procedures for agencies working together need to be improved further.



Celia Beckett: Admitted cruelty to daughter Debbie

Professor Stevenson's inquiry into the Beckett case is thought likely to blame errors of judgement rather than failures of practice as the family was well supported by social and health workers.

An additional factor is the unusual circumstances of the case as the deliberate poisoning of children is rare.

During the 1980s child protection measures focused on identifying physical and sexual abuse. But the case of the nurse Beverley Allitt highlighted the possibility of harm caused by more surreptitious means. Allitt, who suffered from Munchausen Syndrome, was jailed for life after killing four children in her hospital care.

Barbara Meeks of the health authority, said the Stevenson review would ask what should have been done differently and whether it would be done differently today.

Beckett, of Fenton Close, Newark, Nottinghamshire, denied all charges except cruelty to Debbie, who is now living with foster parents under a new identity.



Lost innocents: Beckett's daughters Tracey (left), four, a victim of poisoning, and Clare, seven, who died in 1991



Lost innocents: Beckett's daughters Tracey (left), four, a victim of poisoning, and Clare, seven, who died in 1991

Host of warning signs overlooked

LOUISE JURY

The prosecution called it a "chilling catalogue of child abuse" with a "wholesale failure" of the authorities to investigate and intervene.

The story that unfolded in Nottingham Crown Court revealed a host of warning signs that gave the lie to Beckett's own description of them — "just a terrible coincidence".

Beckett spent much of her own childhood in care as her mother was mentally ill and was eventually sent to Rampton psychiatric hospital.

At 20, she became pregnant but gave up the baby, Angela, for adoption. A year later, in July 1982, she gave birth to Tracey and in December she and her boyfriend Tommy Butler were married. He described Beckett as a woman who lost her temper in vicious rows and vented her anger on her baby.

In one incident, Mr Butler said Tracey ended up in hospital after Beckett hit her. Police were called. After the child sustained an eye injury in early 1984, she was placed on the "at risk" register.

A few months later, Clare was born. For five months, she was a bright and normal baby. But in November 1984 she was taken to the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, after she stopped breathing.

Clare spent the rest of her life in Cauldwell House, Newark, a special home for severely ill children, before dying at the age of seven, blind and having suffered

Authorities failed to act as mother claimed coincidence

epilepsy, mental handicap and cerebral palsy. In September 1986, Tracey was also taken to hospital; Beckett claimed the child had taken 23 of her amitriptyline anti-depression tablets.

The day before Tracey was due to leave hospital, Beckett took an overdose but social workers gave the all-clear for the child to return home. By the end of the month she was dead.

A post-mortem examination gave cause of death as a form of bronchitis, although even at that stage a doctor argued that healthy four-year-old children did not die in such a way.

When Beckett gave birth to another daughter, Debbie, in February 1989, she was put on the "at-risk" register from birth because of the family history.

In 1991, Debbie was taken to hospital after being discovered face-down and with breathing difficulties. Beckett claimed the child had taken two amitriptyline tablets. Debbie recovered but suffered a year of abuse before she was taken into care. In October 1992, social services stepped in and a month later Beckett was arrested.

At the end of 1993, police applied for the bodies of Tracey and Clare to be exhumed. Post-mortems found drugs in both their bodies. The high dose in Tracey's body had brought on the illness that killed her.

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Drink-drive fears over new 'loyalty card'

GLENDA COOPER

BP Oil and the off-licence chain Thresher are said to be considering a joint "loyalty card" scheme, amid fears from the anti-drink-drive lobby that it could encourage motorists to buy more alcohol.

It could be the latest move in a huge proliferation of schemes that attempt to persuade customers to use shops or garages more frequently by awarding "points" for money spent which

can then be used as discounts or towards gifts.

The petrol company is understood to be looking at a "smart card"-based loyalty programme, which will be launched in the latter half of next year along the lines of Shell's scheme, "Shell Smart".

Cards are swiped at the checkout and points credited in line with the amount spent. Shell, the first company to use a microchip card, rather than a magnetic stripe, earlier this

month linked up with John Menzies. Both retailers have done deals with other major companies and now offer points which can be put towards air miles, gifts, charitable donations and cinema tickets. No contracts have yet been signed but BP and Thresher are said to be "exchanging letters of intent to pursue talks on the subject", according to the trade paper, *Marketing Week*.

A spokesman for BP refused to confirm or deny that it was

talking to Thresher, but said it was concentrating on its ongoing promotion "That's Entertainment", which offers the chance to save points towards CDs, music systems and TVs.

"It's possible we've been talking to Thresher," he said. "We talk to lots of people about promotions... If there's a good idea I'm sure we'll be looking at it."

A spokeswoman for Thresher said the reports were "speculation", adding: "Other than the promotions going on in

our stores there are no schemes going on at the moment."

Any link up between BP and off-licence chain for a promotional scheme could lay the company open to charges of encouraging drink-driving.

A spokesman for Alcohol Concern said last night: "We'd be concerned at the risk if motorists were targeted in a marketing plan to increase their purchases at off-licence chains. People who would be buying more drink would be motorists and

that could carry an increased risk of drink-driving."

Loyalty schemes are seen as a highly effective way of "locking customers in" to one particular store. Whether they benefit the customer or the store is the subject of debate.

The big supermarket chains have proved particularly keen - Tesco launched one in February. Safeway launched a loyalty card four days ago, and Sainsbury's is currently halfway through the six-month

promotion period for its card. All three schemes offer between 1 per cent and 3 per cent discounts.

Both Sainsbury's and Tesco require a minimum of £10 to be spent before any points are accrued, while Safeway gives a point for every pound.

Increased sales are not the only bonus for supermarkets. Each time a card is swiped, it registers not only the total amount spent, but exactly what it has been spent on. The supermarkets can therefore build

up a customer profile of each card holder.

The National Consumer Council reserved judgement on the cards: "If you're getting something for nothing that's always all right for us," said a spokesman. "But there's the aspect that people are becoming captive customers, building up points when it takes a phenomenal amount to get anything. It benefits the shops more than the consumer in the long term."

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Tesco Clubcards
CLUBCARD
SCHOOL & LEISURE
TESCO

Safeway ABC Card
ABC cardholders can claim money off in four different ways: discount on their shopping bill; money off particular products; services such as a car wash; or free cinema tickets. Discount is 1 per cent - a point for every £1 spent. No lower limit for qualifying spend.

Sainsbury's SAVER CARD
SAVING MONEY
SAVER CARD



Spoilt for choice: A shopper picking a pumpkin from some of the 20,000 grown each year by Ralph Upton at Slindon, West Sussex

Photograph: Carl Pendle



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politics

Candidate's past: Anti-apartheid campaigner who planted bombs has Labour's full support for election Blair taunted over 'terrorist'

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs yesterday seized on the "terrorist" past of a Labour candidate, John Lloyd, who is well-placed to win the Tory marginal seat of Exeter at the next election.

Mr Lloyd, 54, is still not forgotten by some South African anti-apartheid campaigners for giving evidence in 1985 against a fellow member of the African Resistance Movement, John Harris, who was hanged for planting a bomb in Johannesburg railway station which killed a 77-year-old woman.

But in the Commons, Tony

MPs raised Mr Lloyd's role in

planting bombs himself. Mr Lloyd insisted: "I had planted bombs, but only on symbolic targets like radio masts and electricity pylons. I was a very small fish. I was the bloke who drove the car, basically."

Mr Lloyd, who gave evidence against his colleague in return for immunity, was released after the trial and emigrated to Britain, where he became a barrister, joined the Labour Party and became an Exeter city councillor. He fought the Exeter seat in the last election and was chosen in the summer to fight it again.

David Lidington, Tory MP for Aylesbury and parliamentary aide to Michael Howard, the

Home Secretary, tried to embarrass Tony Blair by asking the Prime Minister to comment on Labour's "selection of a self-confessed terrorist as their candidate".

John Major replied: "I am totally opposed to any act of terrorism and I've no doubt the majority of the people in Exeter will feel the same way."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, later wrote to Mr Blair, demanding that Mr Lloyd be dropped as a candidate. The Labour leader's office accused Dr Mawhinney of "throwing dirt" and said Mr Blair would not reply.

Mr Lloyd claimed the revival of the 30-year-old incident, in

yesterday's left-wing *Tribune* newspaper, arose from a "personal vendetta" to replace him as the Labour candidate for a winnable seat.

"It was an extremely distressing period and it is something that has marked my life ever since," he said. "If I had been a free agent I wouldn't have done it. I was in detention under interrogation and... I saw John Harris as someone who had broken our code; we had a code of not endangering human life."

He said he was beaten and forced to stand "for days on end - they broke me down and I gave evidence against Harris under duress".

A Labour Party spokes-

woman said yesterday that Mr Lloyd had given a full account

of his past to his selection meet-

ing, and had the full confi-

dence of the local party. "I have

always been up-front about my

past and I am still a dedicated

anti-apartheid campaigner," Mr

Lloyd said.

After being interviewed by the Labour General Secretary, Tom Sawyer, he was approved as a candidate by the party's National Executive at the same meeting which refused to endorse left-winger Liz Davies.



John Lloyd: Attacked by Tories over past Photograph: Apex



John Harris (left), who was hanged for the 1965 Johannesburg station blast (right)

Mayhew rushes in Bill to free Ulster prisoners

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

A total of 88 terrorist republican and loyalist prisoners could be released by Christmas under an emergency Bill by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, to help resolve the impasse over the peace process.

The Northern Ireland (Remission of Sentences) Bill will be rushed through both Houses of Parliament within the next fortnight, with cross-party backing.

Sir Patrick said yesterday it could lead to a further 88 prisoners in Northern Ireland jails being released next year, bringing the total gaining early release to about 470.

The Northern Ireland Secretary denied the timing was connected with the peace process,

but he admitted the release of prisoners was a "potent factor".

The releases were foreseen in a speech by Sir Patrick on 25 August as a bonus from the cessation of violence by both sides. However, it is clear the Bill is a response to the demands by both the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries to deal with the issue of prisoners as part of the peace process.

Northern Ireland ministers regarded it as fortunate that the first releases will affect almost as many loyalist prisoners as IRA supporters. It does not affect IRA prisoners in British jails, who are subject to the Home Office probation rules.

The measure, which are open to judicial review by prisoners, may not go far enough for Sinn Fein, which has been demanding a general release of IRA and loyalist paramilitaries. But it could help to kick-start the process, which is deadlocked over the demands for the

IRA to decommission arms before joining all-party talks.

The release of prisoners – mainly wanted for serious acts of terrorism including killings – will cause unrest among Ulster Unionists. But the Government is hoping that the release of loyalist paramilitaries will dampen Unionist criticism.

Northern Ireland ministers regarded it as fortunate that the first releases will affect almost as many loyalist prisoners as IRA supporters. It does not affect IRA prisoners in British jails, who are subject to the Home Office probation rules.

The measure will reverse legislation enacted in 1989 under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the face of an upsurge in terrorist violence. That legislation reduced remission from one-half to one-third of sen-

tence for prisoners serving fixed term sentences in Northern Ireland.

The new Bill will allow all

prisoners in Northern Ireland

serving fixed term sentences to be released after serving half of their sentence. They will then be required to remain under licence for two-thirds of their sentence.

Release on licence means they may be recalled if it is decided that they present a risk to others or are likely to commit further offences.

Sir Patrick denied the Bill was

paving the way for general

Opposition denies rent control claim

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, was yesterday forced to deny that he wanted to bring back rent controls as John Major fought back against the charge of a "lurch to the right" over planned cuts in housing benefit.

Under new guidelines to take effect next year, councils have less discretion to top up housing benefit payments for the poor. In the Commons Mr Blair demanded: "Why don't you tackle directly the excessive rents being charged by private landlords rather than making tenants the victim?"

The Prime Minister replied: "I am pleased to see you commit yourself - and I hope the whole country heard it - to rent controls. That is what you are doing. You can't shake your head."

He went on: "Presumably in the private sector it would mean no more available lettings. Presumably in the public sector you

would hold down rents artificially and push up the level of borrowing and tax."

Mr Blair's office later insisted that the Labour leader was not proposing rent controls and said his focus was on housing benefit fraud by private landlords.

A spokeswoman said the Government's policy of forcing up rents had resulted in a huge growth in the benefits bill.

But another reason for the growth in the cost of housing benefits was fraud by landlords. Councils were finding difficult to protect the public purse because of lack of staff.

Frank Field, Labour chairman of the Social Security select committee, said: "If the policy is to protect taxpayers, the drive against landlord fraud of housing benefit would be at the top of his agenda." The committee's investigations suggested the bill for fraud could be as much as £1bn a year.

But the Prime Minister took

that as a commitment to rent controls and hoped the whole country had heard it. "He can't shake his head. He has just given a Labour commitment to rent controls. Presumably in the private sector it would mean no more available lettings. Presumably in the public sector he

would hold down rents artificially and push up the level of borrowing and tax."

The Prime Minister reaffirmed his intention to tighten controls on asylum seekers,

agreed with Sir Ivan Lawrence, Tory chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, who said it was about time Britain acted "against those who have no right to be in this country".

Unity was proclaimed in manic fashion by right-winger David Evans, MP for Welwyn and Hatfield. "Unlike Labour we on this side are totally united behind our leader," raved Mr Evans, a lieutenant of John Redwood in the Tory leadership contest. Labour's charge of a "lurch to the right" was repeated by Ann Taylor, shadow leader of the House, as she pressed Tony Newton on the future of the troubled Family

Inside Parliament

Stephen Goodwin

Homes and Domestic Violence Bill – intended to extend the rights of unmarried couples. The Bill was "being destroyed by the extreme wing of the Conservative Party," she alleged.

Indeed it is not," John Major replied. "My party remains in the centre of politics and that is where it will always be."

Mr Blair's outrage was rather artificial because he clearly believed the *Guardian* story was a leaked document, the Prime Minister said. In fact it related to measures approved by the Commons last July.

Approved despite Labour opposition, that is. The Labour leader pointed out that housing benefit had risen as housing investment had been slashed.

If the problem, as was suggested by the social security minister, is private landlords charging excessive rents, isn't the sensible thing to tackle that head on – not use the vulnerable and innocent tenants as pawns to clear up a mess of the Government's own making?

But the Prime Minister took

that as a commitment to rent controls and hoped the whole country had heard it. "He can't shake his head. He has just given a Labour commitment to rent controls. Presumably in the private sector it would mean no more available lettings. Presumably in the public sector he

would hold down rents artificially and push up the level of borrowing and tax."

But eight minutes later his party colleague Sir Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire South, resurrected the Russian president: "I have just been out to check... It appears from the tape that at 4pm President Yeltsin was alive."

The Commons will prorogue on 8 November until the new session opens with the Queen's Speech on 15 November. Today's Business – Commons (9.30am) Debate on sport. Levels Not sitting.

Labour adds newcomers to election team

JOHN RENTOU

Two Labour women MPs who have been in the Commons for only 16 months were promoted yesterday to the lowest rung of Tony Blair's government-in-waiting.

Margaret Hodge (Barking) and Judith Church (Dagenham), elected in by-elections last June, were among a batch of 10 "moderniser" MPs announced as new members of the "Lead-

ership Campaign Team" – a holding pen invented last year for promising backbenchers.

The final appointments in the reshuffled opposition following last week's Shadow Cabinet elections were announced by John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, and will be attached to frontbenches teams.

But they will also be allocated to groups of marginal seats to raise the tempo of the party's "key seats initiative", head-

ed by Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, who was last week appointed to an election campaign role in Mr Prescott's team.

Ms Church, another ally of Mr Blair's as the Manufacturing Science Finance union representative on the party's national executive, will cover "youth" and is responsible to Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman.

The other new appointments

She is attached to Jack Straw's home affairs team.

John Heppell, Keith Hill, John Hutton, David Jamieson and Ken Purchase. Eight members of the existing team were promoted to frontbench posts last week, and 11 were retained.

Mr Mandelson yesterday said the party's effort in its 90 target seats would be stepped up. He set a target for 80 per cent of the electorate in these "key seats" to be contacted, by leaflet, telephone or in person, over the next year.

John Heppell: Keith Hill, John Hutton, David Jamieson and Ken Purchase. Eight members of the existing team were promoted to frontbench posts last week, and 11 were retained.

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news

The selling of Child B: Father must bargain hard with media and look to film and book rights to pay for any future treatment Negotiating skills hold key to Jaymee's funds

RHYS WILLIAMS
Media Correspondent

On Wednesday she was plain Child B. By yesterday, Britain was getting to know her as Jaymee Bowen after the High Court lifted an injunction on naming the 11-year-old leukaemia sufferer to allow her father to raise money for future treatment by selling her story.

Precisely how much David Bowen, who last year gave up designing and fitting computer systems to look after Jaymee, receives will depend on his ability to deal with the media.

Although requests are channelled through his London-based solicitor, Rose Sunter, Mr Bowen is handling negotiations himself. According to Ms Sunter, Jaymee's treatment to date – funded by an anonymous donor – has cost in the region of £60,000. "If Jaymee relapsed, the doctor would be looking to

repeat that treatment. As a bottom line, he [Mr Bowen] would at least like to have that amount. If it was clear that was not enough and she needed a bone-marrow transplant, the cost quoted last February was estimated at £75,000 for an operation in the UK, £180,000 if she had to travel to the US."

Ms Sunter said that proceeds from deals struck so far amounted to around £30,000. *Best* magazine, which broke the injunction by naming Jaymee last month, paid Mr Bowen £750. The *Daily Mirror* also has a contract with the family. The paper has so far paid £6,500 and is making £13,500 available for further treatment. *The Sun* also paid for its coverage of the story this week.

However, the problem that Mr Bowen faces is that from today the story will have largely been told. Last night, the BBC devoted a *Panorama* special to

the story but its producers say they did not pay for it.

Max Clifford, a PR consultant who has negotiated big fees for ex-clients such as Antonia de Sancha and Derek Hatton, says that the television coverage and *Mirror* deal meant that the press was largely exhausted as a source of revenue.

The chief source of income now, he said, would come from possible book and film deals. He even suggested that "if there's a happy ending and she becomes a real personality, then there's maybe the chance to develop into ads".

There was also money from other donors and, of course, Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority, whose refusal to pay for treatment precipitated the row. It has now made clear that it will pay for the type of treatment that Jaymee has received so far should she relapse.



Storytellers: Leukaemia victim Jaymee Bowen with her father, David

Photograph: Manni Masons Pictures

THE MONEY CHASE

More than £80,000 has been spent treating Jaymee Bowen. She could need another £80,000 if she has a relapse or £75-80,000. If her condition becomes more serious, if she needs treatment in the US, costs could rise by another £180,000. Now that she has been named, how much could she raise in the fight for a cure?

BANNING POTENTIAL

Newspapers/magazines: Already received £20,000 from the *Daily Mirror*, possibly £10,000 from *The Sun* and £750 from *Best*. Potential: An additional £30,000 over the years from magazines and one-off buy-ups.

TV: Nothing from *Panorama*. If it had been made by an independent production company and sold on, she could have made £20,000.

Film: £500,000 advance, 10-20 per cent profit from takings.

Book: £20,000.

Personal appearances: Nil. Bad for image to be seen to be cashing in like this.

Benefactors: £75,000 so far. Hard to evaluate in the future.

Total: £170,000.

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School bullying starts from the age of three

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Children are being bullied at school from the age of three or four, according to research published yesterday. The study by Liverpool John Moores University found that more than half the children who had been bullied said the problem had started at primary school.

But the research, conducted one year after the implementation of rules that require schools to have anti-bullying policies, found that most children felt able to tell an adult about the problem.

Eight out of 10 bullied pupils had told someone about their plight, with 62 per cent going to a parent and 39 per cent to a teacher. In the majority of cases, their intervention had a positive effect.

Questionnaires filled in by 3,000 pupils in the North-West, aged between 10 and 14, revealed that bullies usually operate in small groups and that the most common forms of bullying are name-calling, threats, hitting and scratching.

Just over half of those questioned said they had been bullied at some time, and 14 per cent were still being bullied at the time of the survey. One bullied pupil in 20 had been suffering for more than five years, while 17 per cent said the bullying had been going on for more than a year.

Four per cent of the pupils said they had been bullied from the age of four, and one 13-year-old girl said she had been bullied at three. But bullying most often began between the ages of nine and 11, with 52 per cent of those who were bullied saying it had started at that time.

Girls were only slightly less likely to be bullied than boys, with 15 per cent of boys and 13 per cent of girls saying they were currently being bullied.

Three-quarters of those who had been bullied had been subjected to name-calling, while half had been threatened, a third had been hit or scratched and just under a fifth had been subjected to stealing.

One pupil in five admitted to bullying with 21 per cent of boys and 18 per cent of girls saying they had done so. When asked why they had done it, four out

of 10 said it was because they disliked their victims, while 12 per cent cited peer pressure.

Three-quarters said they were aware of action against bullying by their teachers, or at least of their school having an anti-bullying policy.

Dr Anne Miller, director of the university's Centre for Consumer Education and Research, which carried out the work with BBC North West Television, said the tender age at which bullying started was surprising but that it coincided with children going out of the home.

"Once they are away from the home, then all sorts of things can be happening," she said.

Jane Kilpatrick, assistant director of Kidscape, a charity which helps bullied and abused children and their families, said it was receiving an increasing number of calls from parents of younger children.

"We are not surprised at all by these findings. They confirm what we have always known, that bullying behaviour starts young and the sooner that teachers and others working with children start stamping it out the better," she said.

RSC staff fight switch from capital to regions

DAVID LISTER
Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company is in conflict with its own staff over its decision to leave London for six months of the year and tour the regions.

The decision was revealed in the *Independent* in June and proclaimed by the RSC's artistic director, Adrian Noble, as a way of being a truly national

company and taking Shakespeare to the people.

Mr Noble is adamant that the change will take place, and the Barbican Centre in London is urgently seeking new tenants for the RSC's theatre for the summer months.

However, Bectu, the theatre union, which represents the backstage staff at the RSC, has written to all the company's governors, who include the Prince

of Wales, condemning the plan and saying it endangers the staff and stage and wardrobe skills that have developed over 30 years.

It also said that not a single regional theatre had yet agreed to host an RSC residency, a fact confirmed by the company yesterday.

Judith Blakeman, Bectu's national officer, said: "This means that the RSC, having burned its boats with the City of London Corporation, which runs the Barbican Centre and gives it a generous annual grant, now has nowhere to go. The RSC promised us further information about their proposals back in July. The fact that we have heard nothing suggests that the RSC is now seriously embarrassed, and that the whole future of the London operation is in jeopardy."

"In the meantime our members face the loss of their livelihood. We don't understand how any responsible public employer can wantonly throw long-serving and loyal workers on to the dole like this without a second thought."

The union is seeking a meeting with the new managing director of the Barbican Centre, John Tusa. They will tell him, says Ms Blakeman, that "the RSC in its arrogance has made a fundamental error of judgement in committing itself to a touring programme that is just not wanted in the regions".

An RSC spokeswoman said yesterday that the new arrangements were not due to start until 1997 and a venue for a new residency should be known by Spring 1996. The RSC would also be touring nationally and 12 theatres had expressed an interest in receiving the RSC for short tours. She added: "We regret that the implications of these plans means a reduced season of work in London."

DAILY POEM

Breakfast All Day

(Notice outside a café in the Lower Richmond Road)

By Gavin Ewart

*Breakfast all day!
What a marvellous thought!*

*Fresh orange juice, cereals,
eggs and bacon, toast, marmalade,
tea or coffee!
Or even pancakes and maple syrup.
buckwheat cakes, bagels, iced water!*

*In Heaven I bet they have
breakfast all day –
with Room Service angels –
and the taste and the joy and the appetite
stay fresh, all day!*

"The Ewart motto," Gavin Ewart once wrote, "is a simple one: *Make the most of life!*" Among the many joys of publishing him, writes Tony Whittome [his editor at Hutchinson over 20 years], was that you never knew what was going to arrive next – a vast Pindaric ode celebrating, with only part mock-heroism, England's great victory over Australia at Headingly, a series of "little ones" (poems sometimes as short as one line), a "so-called sonnet" or a foray into long-neglected forms such as a sestina or a sea-shanty. He often improved my jacket blurb out of existence, so they became poems in themselves – always funny and pointed, but with that individual essence of seriousness and feeling which characterised his work. He was much more than a poet of light verse – but as he said, "good light verse is better than bad heavy verse any day of the week".

Gavin Ewart, who died earlier this week, completed a final volume of *Selected Poems*, to be published by Hutchinson in 1996.

Business

Business

Business

Business

Business

Business

Business

Business

Business

Illness wrecks Yeltsin's comeback hopes

Moscow — Only last week Boris Yeltsin was in such high and apparently healthy spirits that he was joking about playing tennis with Jacques Chirac. He seemed to be back in the political ring and sparing for a fight in next year's presidential elections.

But last night his comeback was in tatters after he was rushed by helicopter from a country residence to Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, evidently exhausted by his summit meetings in France and the United States. He had suffered another heart attack, his second in less than four months.

Although he has yet to announce his candidacy for next year's election, his illness will certainly damage his chances of re-election to the Kremlin's top job. He already faces a disgruntled electorate, worn down by rising prices, unemployment, and a fruitless war in Chechnya, and a growing perception that Russia no longer matters in global terms.

Now, when he least needs it, he has given Russian voters another jarring reminder that he is physically as well as politically weak. It is no surprise, then, that on the streets of Moscow, where he was once regarded as a reforming hero, the news of his hospitalisation seemed to arouse only lukewarm interest.

"There is no-one in politics who cannot be replaced," said Vladimir Stolov, a 42-year-old construction worker. "The only bad thing about this is that it leads to further instability." Others echoed his views. "It is all the same to me," said Marina Baskovskaya, 58. "We had hopes for Yeltsin, but he turned out to be like all the rest of them."

Last night, as news of his illness spread, speculation turned to what would happen if he proves to be incapacitated. Under the constitution, the reins

Phil Reeves looks at the implications of the latest crisis at the Kremlin

of power would pass Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, who would run the country until the President recovered or an election was held. But whether Mr Yeltsin's closest aides would allow this is uncertain. Several of the Kremlin inner circle loathe Mr Chernomyrdin and have been waging a covert campaign to unseat him in the hope of replacing him with one of their own more hardline candidates.

Whatever his current problem (and it was reportedly only a mild heart attack) his inner circle may decide to do nothing, just as they did when Mr Yeltsin had a heart attack this summer. Although his condition turned out to be far more serious than the Kremlin initially admitted, his staff went to elaborate lengths to convince the world that he was still at the helm by releasing a photograph of a healthy-looking Mr Yeltsin happily sitting at a desk. This backfired badly when a sharp-eyed photographer noticed that the same print had been released several months earlier.

Last night, his staff were anxiously awaiting a medical diagnosis to confirm his ailment, which is believed to be ischaemia — which affects the blood supply to the heart. The President, whose appearance has deteriorated sharply during his four and a half years in office, has never been able to dispel rumours that he has a drink problem, although his aides deny it. His conspicuously high spirits in New York, and his rather puffy features, aroused new suspicions.

Alleged drinking exploits aside, he has a serious medical condition which has plagued him since before he became President and may ultimately

destroy his political future. In November 1987 he was taken to hospital with chest pains after being dumped as the head of the Moscow Communist Party. In April 1990 he was back in hospital with what his aides described as "possible" heart problems. The following year he spent two weeks recuperating on the Black Sea after yet another suspected episode of cardiac trouble.

For all this, long-term observers of Mr Yeltsin were cautious yesterday. Whatever his problems today, there is much water to flow under the bridge before next June, including parliamentary elections in December. He has a remarkable habit of bouncing back, usually just after he has been written off by the outside world. "If he is not seriously ill he will run again," said the political commentator Sergei Chujakov. "Power is like a narcotic with him. He can't live any other way."



Warning signs: Mr Yeltsin (left) with Kremlin top brass in February and at a CIS summit (centre) where his appearance caused concern



A stressful job that heightens the risks

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Ischaemia, which struck down Boris Yeltsin, describes an insufficient blood supply to a specific organ or tissue — in this case the heart — due to diseased or damaged blood vessels which have narrowed.

Atherosclerosis — narrowing of the arteries due to deposits of fatty material — is the most common reason, and believed to be behind this, Mr Yeltsin's second attack in four months.

Unmonitored and untreated, the condition can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Mr Yeltsin has other risk factors for heart disease: he is overweight, is believed to have high blood pressure, is alleged to drink heavily and has a stressful job.

However, a leading Russian

doctor has ruled out any immediate danger to the President's life.

Vladimir Samarin, a cardiologist at the State Scientific Centre for Preventative Medicine in Moscow, said last night: "If I was talking to my patient I would tell him two attacks in four months was not bad. I would also give an optimistic prognosis — that is, if other attacks have not been concealed, of course."

Dr Samarin added: "As an expert, I would not be surprised if Yeltsin had an ischaemic attack after such a heavy and stressful trip to the United States."

Treatment of ischaemia includes vasodilator drugs and, in the most severe cases, coronary angioplasty to clear the heart arteries, or a by-pass operation.

Giuliani's potholes cost him a vote

PEOPLE

Egypt's Industry Minister, Ibrahim Fawzi, has presented a car to the Bosnian ambassador in Cairo. The financially strapped ex-Yugoslav republic did not own an embassy vehicle, and its envoy, Avdija Hadrovic, has had to rely on public transport to get around the city.

After Mr Hadrovic was late for an appointment because he could not find a taxi and had to take one of Cairo's overcrowded buses, Mr Fawzi appealed to car manufacturers for a donated vehicle. The gift was presented at a reception this week.

The ill Boris Yeltsin has much on his mind these days: his health, the future of democracy in Russia, how to walk the line between co-operation with the West and, in his nationalist opponents' eyes, selling out to the US and Nato. And there is Brigitte Bardot.

The animal-rights activist has written to "Yeltsin, polluter of the world with your crumbling and unsafe nuclear plants contaminating your population", on the "decadent barbarity" of Russian reindeer hunting.

By repulsively slaughtering these animals, allowing the last herds of reindeer fleeing the ice of the Great North to be exterminated, you show the world the portrait of a despicable country," Ms Bardot wrote.

"Between the extermination gulags of baby seals on the White Sea, an utter genocide of innocence, and the ignoble butchery of the last reindeer herds, you demonstrate in monstrous fashion what is most vile and base in mankind."

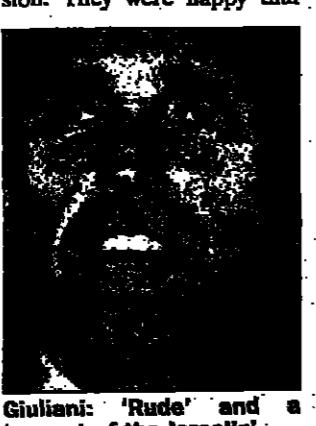
MARYANN BIRD

they could finally go home without being asked to show identification.

The Cuban leader, snubbed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani, proclaimed he "would not vote for the mayor". With a grin, Mr Castro continued: "It's not just because he didn't invite me to dinner, but because on my way into town from the airport there were such enormous potholes."

Mr Giuliani has also been lambasted by former mayor Ed Koch, who is Jewish as a "rude" man with "behavioural problems" and by a PLO spokesman, Marwan Karanfani, as "a puppet of the Jewish and Israeli lobby in the city of New York" for having Yasser Arafat ejected from a New York Philharmonic concert on Monday.

The PLO leader took his time departing 30 minutes before the performance ended. He stayed through Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, which extols the brotherhood of man.



Giuliani: 'Rude' and a 'puppet of the Israelis'

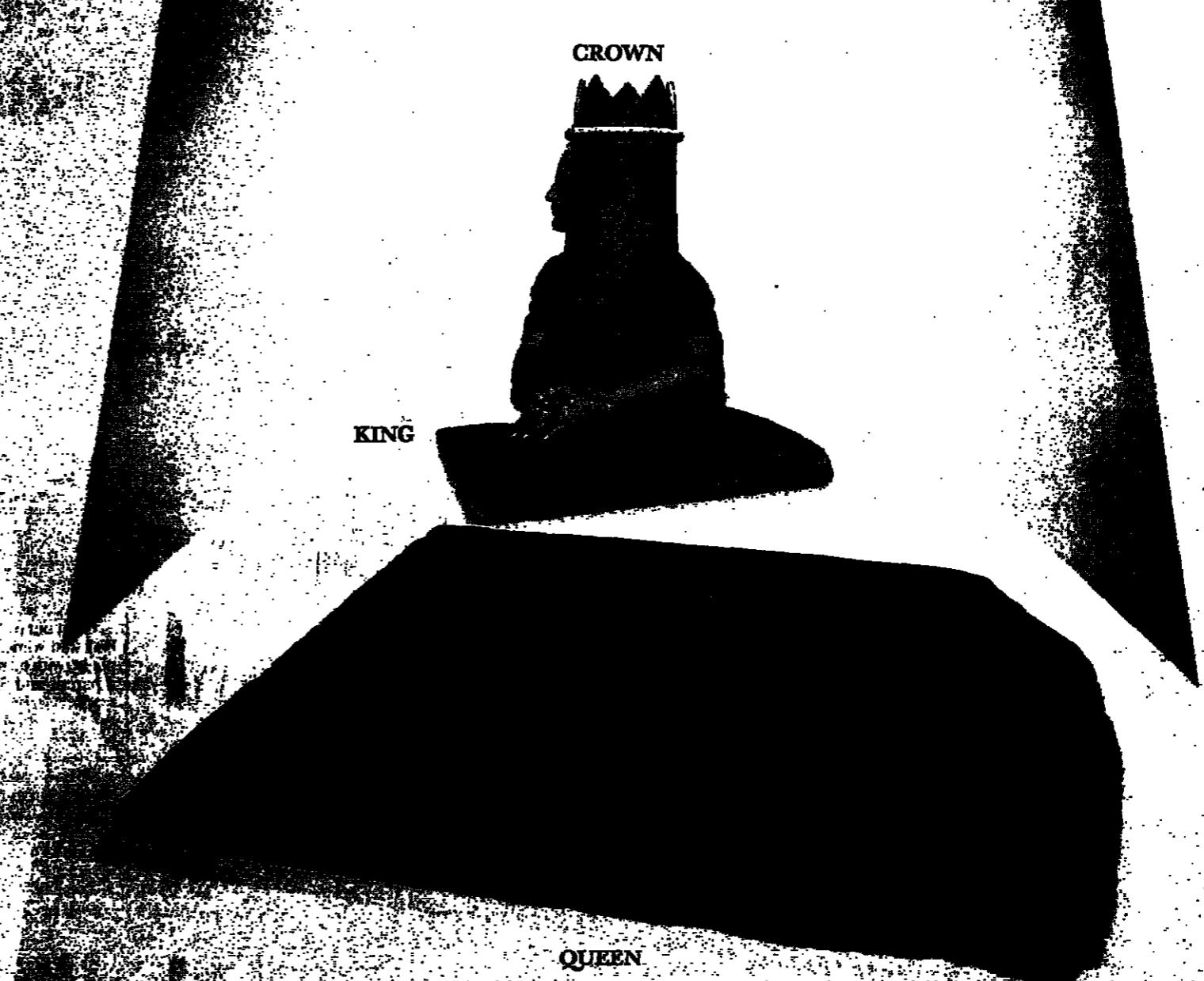
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international

Torchlight troops outrage Bonn

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

A Prussian "Grand Tattoo" in the heart of Bonn celebrating the new German army's 40th birthday whipped up more than a little storm yesterday, as opposition politicians snubbed the ceremony, accusing Chancellor Helmut Kohl of harking back to the country's worst military traditions.

The parade, which was first introduced by King Friedrich Wilhelm III in 1813, and which went out of fashion in 1945, was to culminate last night in a torch-lit procession among the linden trees in front of the university. A force of 3,000 policemen was at hand to protect the soldiers from potentially violent peace protesters. Under the banner "Militarism - never again" thousands of people gathered in an adjoining square to air their disgust with the event. The local council, run by an alliance of Social Democrats and Greens, authorised the counter-demonstration.

The row over the decision to hold the tattoo in the middle of

the sleepy little Rhineland town rekindled debate about the role of the German armed forces and their place in a society that would rather not notice their existence. "This is a provocation against the town's civil community," complained Manfred Stenner, the head of the Bonn Peace Bureau. "The Chancellor wants to demonstrate to the citizens of Bonn that the Bundeswehr [federal army] is the biggest peace movement in Germany today. It may be a political signal to the neighbouring countries of Germany's military power."

The peace protesters were particularly incensed by the choice of the venue, accusing the army of desecrating their most hallowed ground. It was on the same university lawn that the legendary Petra Kelly rallied demonstrators in the 1980s against the stationing of Pershing nuclear missiles.

Traditionally, Bundeswehr birthday parties have been tucked away in quiet barracks, lest they offend foreigners and the many Germans who still feel nervous about manifestations of



Unbending: Chancellor Kohl (right) at a press conference with President Jacques Chirac yesterday. Photograph: AFP

German military power. The army first came out of the closet at last year's farewell ceremony in Berlin to allied soldiers. Now Mr Kohl wants to make a habit of it. "It is absolutely crucial that we celebrate this birthday in public," he said. "It is self-evident that we stand by our soldiers."

Many Bonn residents, unswayed by the fuss, think he is right. "This is a tradition of the Bundeswehr ... it is natural that they should be allowed

to perform it," said a 58-year-old woman. "I think it is the counter-demonstration that's stupid." Philipp Wolff, a 25-year-old student, agreed: "The Bundeswehr is part of the state and is needed. It must be integrated into society. It is dangerous to hide soldiers ... That's how you get third-world tendencies - dictatorship."

Bringing them into the open is one thing, but some locals question whether they have to perform a ritual choreographed

by a Prussian king and perfected during the Third Reich. "The most problematic thing is that the Nazi Wehrmacht and even the Waffen SS celebrated this kind of procession," Mr Stenner said. Echoes of such concern could be found even among those who supported the decision and planned to turn up for the spectacle.

"The torches are a problem," said Patrick Neubaus, a 21-year-old law student. "I think they could have done it without the torches."

But torches it was to be. Mr Kohl decreed, and he was going to take no nonsense from anyone trying to spoil his party. When Bonn council gave permission to the protest demonstration, the Chancellor's fury was boundless. His office threatened to "take the Ministry of Defence to Berlin". The Bundeswehr is one of few national institutions to be retained by Bonn after the move to the new capital in 2000.

"Take your soldiers," the burghers of Bonn countered. "Maybe the Prussians there will appreciate your parades."

Mr Kohl, a Rhinelander himself, should have known that Prussians in this part of the country are not exactly role models. The Chancellor, who sometimes forgets that he is not an absolute monarch, should have remembered that the decision on which of the ministries should move was made by the federal parliament, not by himself alone.

In the event, his ill-tempered response merely stiffened the opposition's resolve not to grace Mr Kohl's moment of glory. While foreign ambassadors could hardly duck out, Rudolf Schaarberg, leader of the Social Democrats, did refuse to turn up for the parade, though he attended a soldier-free jamboree at Bonn's concert hall.

The Greens also made their excuses, the best coming from Volker Beck, a member of the national parliament. Mr Beck and his wife had received a handsome invitation from the Chancellor's office. "Unfortunately," Mr Beck replied, "there is no Frau Beck in my ménage." He had the courtesy to offer to bring his boyfriend instead.

Wanted: new chief for Nato

SARAH HELM
Brussels

The US is determined to ensure that a highly-respected heavyweight figure takes over as Nato Secretary General, at a time when the credibility of the alliance has been brought into some dispute, diplomats say.

After the resignation of Willy Claes over links to alleged bribes in helicopter deals while he was Belgian economy minister, Washington wants to make sure that there is no similar mistake, though this may delay the appointment for weeks.

It is understood that the US attempted to put pressure on Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, to change his mind and stand for the job, but he has not been persuaded as yet and this has led to the emergence of other heavyweight British figures. News that Britain is considering proposing Sir Leon Brittan as a candidate reported in the Independent yesterday, was broadly welcomed by Nato insiders, but

caused some surprise within the European Commission.

Sir Leon's professionalism is highly respected, and his brokering skills are considered right for the job of chairing the meetings of Nato ambassadors. His tough reputation as a negotiator is exactly what is needed to ensure that Nato can reach agreement over how to enforce peace in the Balkans.

Nevertheless there were fears that a British intervention could delay the selection process. It had been expected that the decision on the new Nato chief would be taken within days. Now it is likely to be weeks. John Major was yesterday still considering other British candidates, and will come under pressure to make a firm proposal soon. However, his options are very limited and he is loath to propose any sitting Tory MP because, to do so, would force a by-election. The prospect of selecting a new EU Commissioner, should Sir Leon take the post, is also unattractive.

Situation vacant

| Nato Secretary General | |
|--|--|
| Leading international organisation seeks top executive. High-flier with a background in politics sought for challenging post, with plenty of travel. Job occupies spending more time with his lawyers. Organisation requires candidate to provide new drive for sound business that has recently been facing a difficult transition, tanks, nuclear weapons every Wednesday. Res. of work in spent plutonium corridor of power. First task will be to broker agreement on the setting up of Nato's new enforcement force for former Yugoslavia. Candidate must also be ready to tackle Nato's enlargement to the East. Must be willing to live in Brussels. Preferably not involved with helter-skelter in the recent past. | Salary and Conditions: about \$250,000 per year. Term of office, four years. Benefits: Official residence in exclusive section of Brussels' Avenue Louise. Gaudier Drive on Nato American Express Card. |
| Languages: English as a first or second language is essential; good French highly desirable. Russian comes in increasingly handy. | Term of Application: Nato is an equal opportunities employer (but women stand little chance, unless they have prior experience of bombing wars and driving tanks). Appointment will be made without reference to nationality (but following need not apply: Americans, Canadians, Germans, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Belgians, Luxembourgers, Greeks, Turks.) No Russians. No Spies. |
| | NATO |

The favourites

John Hume
Age: 55, Northern Irish, Conservative.
Experience: Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Northern Ireland Secretary of State for Trade and Industry before joining the EC Commission in 1989 after Westland.
Plus points: Skilled and experienced diplomat. Speaks French. Understands Europe.

Egon Krenz
Age: 57, German, Socialist.
Experience: Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic for 12 years until 1990. Authorised compromise that led to the German Reunification Treaty.

Peter Sutherland
Age: 55, British, Conservative.
Experience: Solid summons of European defence policies, and of the trans-Atlantic alliance. The Netherlands has been his recent base.
Plus points: No direct experience in defence jobs. The appointment would force Britain to choose new EU commissioner. Westland affair, like Mr Claes' problem, centred on helicopters.

Ronald Lubbers
Age: 57, Dutch, Conservative.
Experience: Prime Minister of the Netherlands for 12 years until 1990. Authorised compromise that led to the German Reunification Treaty.

Hans-Erhardheine
Age: 55, Danish, Liberal.
Experience: Journalist. Former Danish Foreign minister.
Plus points: Respected as a diplomat on world stage. Won plaudits for stewardship of Danish foreign policy. Energetic, witty, diplomatic.
Minus points: Deemed to be something of a lightweight. Too amiable and provocative. Danish criticism of French nuclear tests makes him unpopular with Paris, which complains he is not fluent in French.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen
Age: 55, Danish, Liberal.
Experience: Journalist. Former Danish Foreign minister.

David Hurd
Age: 55, British, Conservative.
Experience: British foreign secretary from 1989 until June this year. Played key role on world stage during German reunification, the Gulf War and the Balkan conflict. Previously held other senior Cabinet posts. Career diplomat.

Plus points: Highly respected diplomatic skills, and vast experience of international affairs and defence. Speaks French. Liked by Washington.
Minus points: Doesn't appear to want the job. His appointment would force him to leave Witney.

David Owen
Age: 55, British.
Experience: Medical doctor. Former Labour defence minister and Foreign Secretary. Former EU peace envoy to the former Yugoslavia.
Plus points: Experience of defense and foreign affairs. Intimate knowledge of conflict in former Yugoslavia. Respected intellectual. Ambitious and determined.

Minus points: Unpopular with the US, due to stance on former Yugoslavia. Deemed to be somewhat arrogant and difficult, and therefore not the best mediator.

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FINANCIAL

AL-KHALIL

international

anted: new
ief for Nato

EMU strictures threaten City

SABAH HELM
Brussels

Brain fears that London's status as a financial centre could be undermined by plans now being discussed in Frankfurt for European monetary union.

Although Britain has a right to "opt out" of monetary union due to launch in 1999, the Government is taking a full part in all the preparations should it decide to opt in.

In discussions at the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt, where all European Union central bank governors are drawing up the EMU masterplan, Germany is insisting that all countries which join the single currency

adopt German monetary policy instruments, including minimum reserve requirements, regarded by some in the financial community as a quasi tax on banks.

The German system means

that each bank must hand over a portion of its deposits, to be held by the central bank without interest, as a means of controlling inflation. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the German Bundesbank, argues that it is the most effective system for keeping prices stable. Britain believes adopting the continental monetary policy tools would be extremely costly and could scare away big commercial banks from London.

The threat to the City is cer-

tain to feed British Euro-sceptic fears about monetary union. Under the Maastricht treaty, the masterplan for monetary policy must be agreed by 1996, ahead of the British election, which has to take place by mid-1997.

According to senior banking sources in Frankfurt, Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, is blocking the plan and discussions have reached an impasse. There are fears in Frankfurt that Britain may veto the masterplan, thereby holding up the move to monetary union. The Bank of England says it strongly opposes the German system, claiming that options are still open. However, in a speech this week Mr Tiet-

meyer made clear that Germany will insist on a system of minimum reserves. Describing how Germany wants the European Central Bank to operate, he mapped out a vision which closely resembled his country's own central bank.

It is a fundamental clash of philosophy over monetary policy with Germany at one end and Britain at the other," says Graham Bishop, European affairs adviser at Salomon Brothers in London. "If high minimum reserve requirements are introduced, some banks based in London could move offshore from the EU. It is effectively a tax on banks."

Even EU officials who sup-

port monetary union concede that Britain has justified fears. "Many banks have moved to Britain, citing London's favourable regulatory climate. Britain risks losing its status as a financial centre," said a senior economics official in Brussels.

"This shows how important it is for Britain to be involved in the heart of discussions on developing monetary union."

The dispute is the most significant split yet between Britain and its European partners over the preparations for monetary union and illustrates how difficult it will be for Britain to agree a European approach to monetary policy, should it decide to join the sin-

gle currency. The row also illustrates how hard it is becoming for Britain to sit on the fence over joining as preparations get underway. John Major has said there is no urgency for Britain to decide on whether to join EMU, and the Government will wait until the time is right.

It is widely expected that the decision would not be taken until after the next general election. However, although Britain can defer its decision, it is becoming increasingly difficult to put off deciding whether to join the preparations in order to be ready just in case - Britain must start preparing the City, the financial institutions and the public.



Italians demand explanation from French

Rome — The Italian government called in the French chargé d'affaires and demanded an explanation for the "regrettable" boarding of a Greenpeace anti-nuclear protest ship in Brindisi harbour on Wednesday (above). Commandos fired tear gas and boarded the *Albat* after it entered the harbour with four inflatable vessels to try to keep the French destroyer *Dupleix* in port. AP

British soldier killed in Bosnian accident

A British soldier, Fusilier Gary Riches, 24, from Newcastle, was killed by a bullet in the head at the British base at Zepoč, central Bosnia on Wednesday, writes Christopher Bellamy. A second soldier was seriously injured. Army sources said the incident appeared to be an accident.

Hostage wives appeal to militants

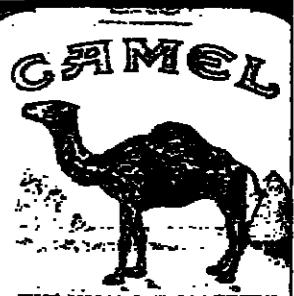
New Delhi — The partners of four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir since July, including the wives of two Britons, left India for home, renewing their appeal to Al-Farouq militants to release their menfolk. "It would be honourable and humanitarian," said Julie Mangan and Catherine Moseley, whose husbands were abducted while trekking in the mountains of Kashmir. Reuter

Russia to take revenge on rebels

Grozny — The Russian military said it would retaliate against Chechen rebels blamed for killing 18 Russian servicemen in an ambush. Local citizens were warned to leave the southern region of Vedenovo "to avoid casualties". Reuter

RIP Joe Camel

Raleigh, North Carolina — Joe Camel (right) is tired and needs a short holiday, say the makers of Camel cigarettes. The hump-backed cartoon character is to be withdrawn from billboard advertising in the United States for the rest of the year. "We decided he needed a short break to keep him fresh," said a spokeswoman for the tobacco company RJ Reynolds. AP



European Commissioner to sue newspaper

Brussels — The Danish European Commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard, said she would sue the Danish newspaper Politiken for printing extracts from her controversial diary. Ms Bjerregaard had withdrawn the book, *The Commissioner's Diary*, from publication. Reuter

Avalanche kills 16

Reykjavik — An avalanche roared down on the isolated coastal village of Flateyri, 155 miles from Iceland's capital, killing at least 16 people. Rescuers, assisted by dogs, battled winds of 50 knots and near-freezing temperatures to dig for survivors. Ten villagers were rescued and four were missing as darkness fell. AP

Iraqi captain flees to Kuwait

Kuwait — An Iraqi air force captain fled to Kuwait with his wife and one-year-old daughter and asked for political asylum, according to *Al-Watan*. The newspaper said the officer was in uniform when he arrived at the demilitarised Iraq-Kuwait border zone. AP



from the brink: Mr Dini in parliament yesterday. In a stirring, 45-minute speech he repudiated his foes and beat off a no-confidence vote by a handful of votes.

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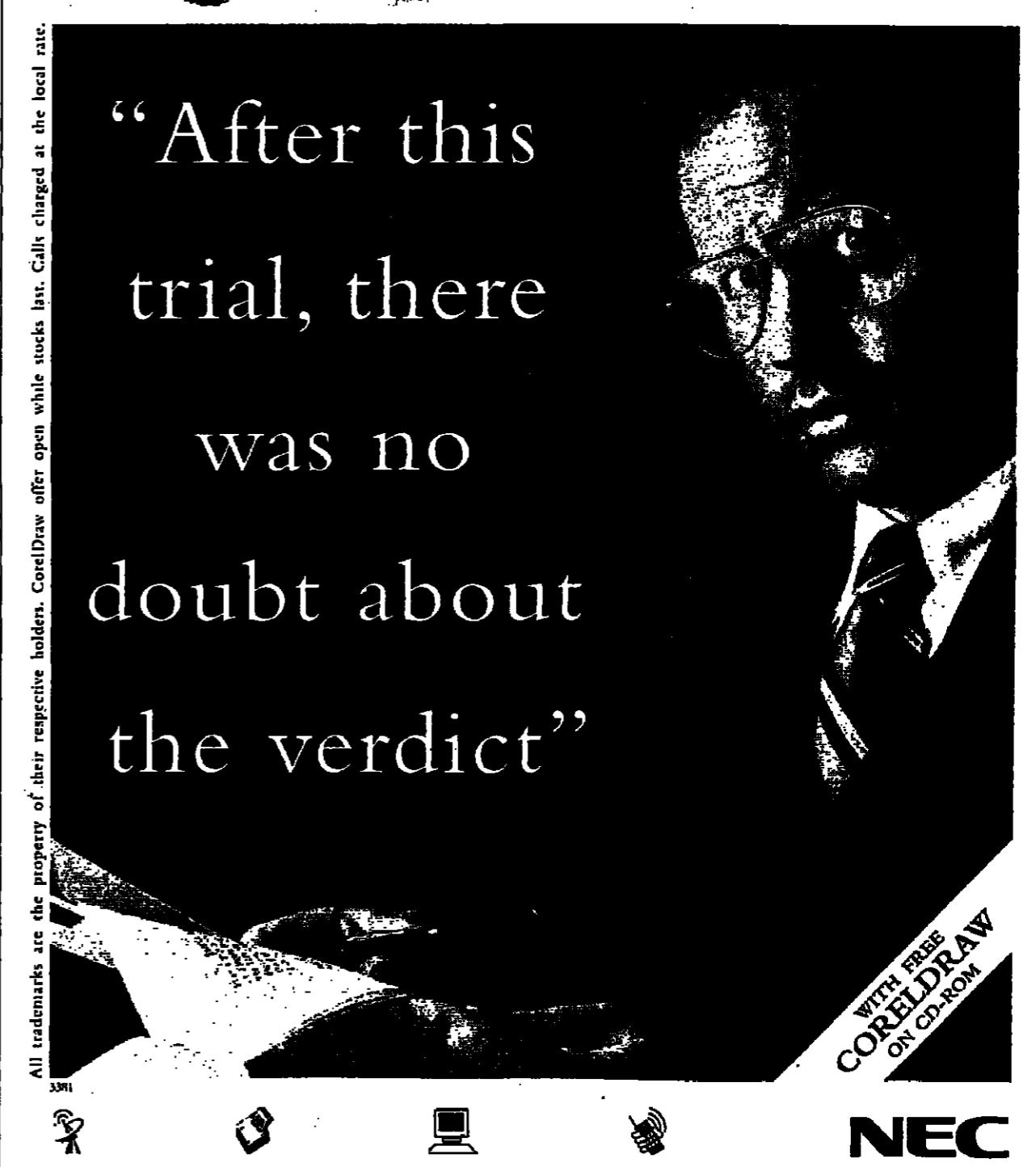
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international

Canadian PM begs Quebec not to destroy union

HUGH WINSTON
Ottawa

The Canadian government finally has intervened directly in the Quebec referendum battle with an 11th-hour appeal for unity. It reflects an air almost of desperation in Ottawa as the leaders of the Liberal government realise separatists may win Monday's vote.

Invoking a rarely-used section of the Broadcasting Act relating to national crises, Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, commanded national airtime for an emotional plea to fellow Quebecers not to turn their backs on the country they helped to build.

Federalists also have organised a monster rally in Montreal today, to which thousands of Canadians will join federalists within the province, in an effort to strengthen the message that they want Quebec to remain in Canada.

Looking haggard and older than his 61 years, Mr Chrétien warned Quebecers not to be fooled by the separatist promise of a trouble-free divorce after which they can have independence and keep the benefits of economic union with Canada.

He repeated that he would support changes in the constitution to include recognition of Quebec as a distinct society and to restore Quebec's veto over

changes that might affect its language, culture and power within the confederation.

His promise was attacked by Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Québécois party in the federal parliament and *de facto* leader of the separatist campaign in Quebec. He said that the Prime Minister's about-turn on constitutional concessions was phoney. "There is no wind of change blowing through

French," Mr Chrétien admitted for the first time that Canada faced a crisis. "What is at stake is our country. What is at stake is our heritage."

He challenged separatists to provide one good reason to destroy Canada and bring about "the end of a country that has made us the envy of the world."

He also asked whether the French language and culture would be better protected by a small state of 7 million people up against 250 million English speakers in North America.

The English-Canadian pilgrimage to Montreal today was sparked off by the Fisheries Minister, Brian Tobin, the silver-tongued Newfoundland who became a national hero when he led the fight against Spanish fisherman in the so-called turbot war.

Within hours, the two national airlines had announced a "unity fare", allowing anyone to fly to Montreal for as little as 10 per cent of the regular price. Every flight into Montreal has been booked and extra flights are being arranged.

Bus caravans are en route from as far away as Fredericton and Halifax, 700 miles away. Nova Scotia's Premier, John Savage, called for school classes to be cancelled and for employees to be given time off to drive to Montreal.

Speaking in both English and

Ottawa, just a wind of panic," he said.

Until this week, Mr Chrétien had remained aloof from the campaign, making only a few speeches in Quebec restating his belief that most Quebecers would not vote to break up Canada. He has also opposed new constitutional discussions after the failure of previous attempts in 1990 and 1992.

Speaking in both English and



Young patriot: Greg Widdison, a student, urging drivers in Ottawa to show support for Canadian unity before Quebec's vote on secession

Photograph: Jeff Bassett/AP

Why have Turkey this Christmas when you can have Partridge...

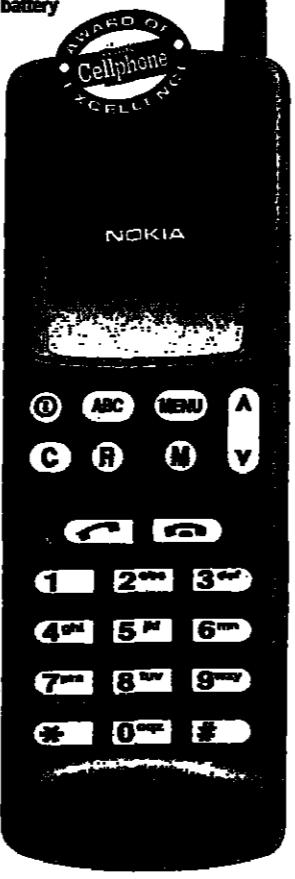
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Rule-rigging nationalists set to win Croatia poll

EMMA DALY
Zagreb

Croatian Serbs to flee, the government cut from 13 to three the number of parliamentary seats reserved for the Serb minority. "The change in the law," said the institute's report, "presupposes that Serbs who have recently left Croatia due to war conditions will not return."

Instead, 12 of the 127 seats in the lower house are to be elected by members of the fear-somewhat nationalistic Croatian diaspora, which bizarrely – and to the fury of the Sarajevo government – is said to include 291,000 Croats who live in Bosnia-Herzegovina and hold Bosnian citizenship.

Opposition parties have found it impossible to compete on the state-controlled airwaves: each is allowed one hour of free air time, but must answer questions set by the national network. Criticism of the government is forbidden. The network rejected one opposition party's paid advertisement on the grounds that it was "annoying".

However, the HDZ enjoys blanket coverage. Television in Croatia, where the state controls three of the four channels, is by far the most important medium, though the HDZ is also keen to shackle newspapers.

The opposition, weak and divided, restricts its campaigning to attacks on government corruption – charges to which the HDZ is vulnerable. "Tudjman is OK, he's a good man, but the HDZ is totally corrupt," one Zagreb voter said.

"Eastern Slavonia [the last sliver of land still in rebel Serb hands] is not the problem here, the economy is the problem."

Foreign observers in Croatia warn that victory for the HDZ is likely to harden Zagreb's position on eastern Slavonia and its prickly relationship with Sarajevo over the Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia. "Instead, the ruling HDZ is likely to use its election victory to harden its negotiating position," said a foreign political analyst. "They will continue to count on the great powers' basic indifference ... and growing dependence on Croatia's democratic stability" in a volatile region.

Russian troops 'to get support role'

TIM CORNWELL
Washington

The US Secretary of Defence, William Perry, and his Russian counterpart, General Pavel Grachev, met in Washington yesterday to try and fashion a role for Russian troops in a Bosnia peacekeeping force.

President Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, who met in New York last week on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, agreed in theory that up to 2,000 Russian support troops would help in reconstruction efforts, airlifting supplies and clearing mines, officials have disclosed.

These troops would be separate from a Nato-led force. But Mr Perry and Gen Grachev yesterday confronted the far more sensitive issue of using Russian combat troops, with the two sides openly at loggerheads over whether they could come under Nato command.

The defence chiefs' meeting was to prepare in part for peace talks between the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia at an Ohio air force base next week. The US insists that any Russian peace-keepers should be integrated into the command structure of the proposed 60,000-strong Nato contingent. But while Russian commanders have shown some eagerness to get involved, President Yeltsin has been adamant that they will not serve under Nato.

Both governments are under heavy pressure at home. Senator Budget considerations may have influenced Mr Yeltsin's decision to opt for a non-combat role for at least a few Russian troops, the *New York Times* reported yesterday. The UN would typically foot the bill for reconstruction work, but combat forces would have to be supplied and financed from home.



Love's labour: Grandmother cares for Benjamin while their refugee family gathers wood outside Gorazde

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Croatia poll

INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 1995

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international

Don King squares up to Mr Maffia

DAVID USBORNE

New York

The boxing promoter Don King, his electric-shock hairstyle an easy subject for the court-room artists, was again in a New York courtroom yesterday, locked in battle with a former colleague called Mr Maffia.

Mr King, on trial for allegedly defrauding Lloyds of London of \$350,000 (£223,000) has been forced to put on hold plans to relaunch the career of the former heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson. He may face bigger problems, perhaps as early as next week, when the jury is asked to deliberate on the nine counts of fraud, each of which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. If Mr King is convicted, Mike Tyson, himself only recently out of prison, may have to find a new manager.

The last 13 days in the mahogany-lined courtroom of Judge Lawrence McKenna, 15 floors above the streets of downtown Manhattan, have offered some moments of theatre. There was stunned silence late on Wednesday, when the defence, seeking to discredit the key prosecution witness, Joseph Maffia, played a tape of a telephone conversation he had with Mr King.

On the tape, recorded in May 1992, Mr Maffia was heard to shout down the line twice over: "I'm going to kick your ass". When a confused-sounding King asks who is on the line, Mr Maffia responds in an extremely abusive manner.

Whitewater targets Hillary Clinton's phone

TIM CORNWELL
Washington:

In a dramatic gesture that threatened to revive the flagging Whitewater investigation, Republicans on the US Senate's Whitewater committee yesterday issued a string of 49 subpoenas demanding documents and telephone records from the White House.

The move was orchestrated by Senator Alfonso D'Amato, a New York politician with a reputation for political theatrics. He appeared yesterday to be zeroing in on Hillary Clinton's activities in the days after the death of White House legal counsel, Vincent Foster.

Republicans now suggest the First Lady may have manoeuvred to block a search of Foster's office by investigators looking into his death in a Washington park, later ruled a suicide. It is something the Clintons have strongly denied.

Mr D'Amato, the committee chairman, said he would recall Mrs Clinton's chief of staff, Margaret Williams, and her close friend, Susan Thomas, to quiz them again about a flurry of phone calls between the two and Mrs Clinton's mother's home, where she was staying.

He said their testimony that they could not remember the calls was "suspect" and subpoenas were necessary because of "an obvious pattern of delay" in the White House turning over everything from e-mail messages to legal documents.

Clinton aides and Senate Democrats have derided the Republicans for turning Whitewater into a "political witch-hunt" at a time when the investigation was running out of real leads. "This is a dangerous path we are pursuing here," Senator John Kerry said.

With the 1996 presidential election campaign under way, politics is clearly a driving motive. The mention of the word subpoenas conjures up old memories of Watergate, even though the evidence of serious wrongdoing remains elusive.

A former controller, or chief accountant, at Don King Productions, Mr Maffia is vital to the prosecution. Mr King is accused of wrongfully claiming \$350,000 from Lloyds arising from a fight in June 1991 involving Julio Cesar Chavez that had to be cancelled after Mr Chavez cut his nose in training.

Prosecutors allege that after the fight was called off, the original contract between Mr King and Mr Chavez was doctored to include a rider referring to \$350,000 in non-refundable training and maintenance costs, which were then wrapped into the insurance claim to Lloyds. Mr King allegedly wanted to the money to help cover a \$736,000 loan he had made to Mr Chavez.

Mr Maffia claimed earlier this week that he had only been able to find some \$130,000 to \$150,000 in legitimate expenses and that he had been ordered personally by Mr King to pad them out. "He instructed me to deem a portion of the \$736,000 cheque for training expenses," Mr Maffia testified.

Apparently nervous and refusing to look Mr King in the eye, Mr Maffia also explained how the final figure of the claim was arrived at. "He said, 'Put down \$150,000, \$200,000, \$250,000. I don't remember the exact figure,'" Mr Maffia testified. He said Mr King himself later settled on \$350,000.

Mr Maffia was forced to resign from Don King Productions in September 1991 and his telephone outburst apparently came after his former employer tried to have his accounting licence revoked and his unem-



Don King: Forced to put Tyson's career on hold

ployment insurance withdrawn. "I just wanted to yell at him," he instructed to the court.

The tape was nonetheless a useful weapon for the defence team. Afterwards, Mr King who has several of his minnows

in the courtroom gallery who watch over him even when he visits the lavatory, seemed delighted afterwards. "Anyone can see this is a put-up job," he said to reporters.

But the prosecution was back at work yesterday, questioning Richard Hummers, who became vice president for finance at Don King Productions two months before Mr Maffia's departure and was responsible for filing the insurance claim to Lloyds. Testifying under immunity, Mr Hummers admitted that when he was preparing the claim, he had difficulty getting access to the original Chavez contract, that the prosecution said had been altered. "I don't think I was able to get the contract the first time I asked for it," he said.

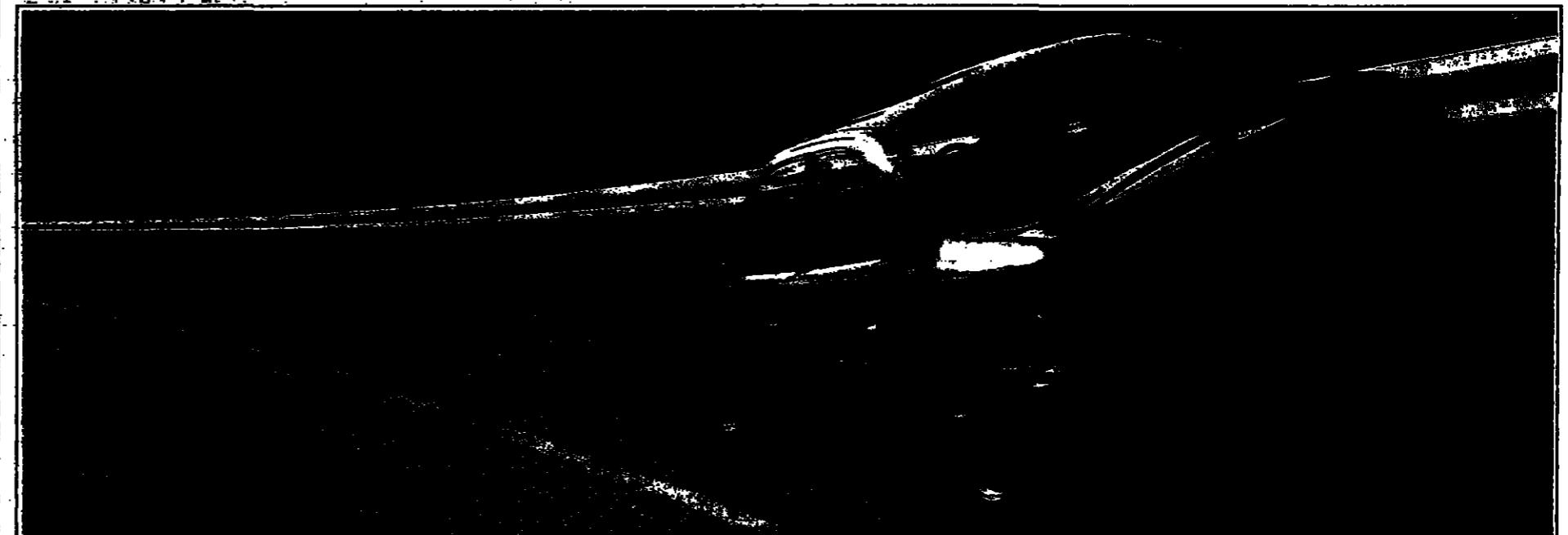
According to the prosecutors, it would not have been normal for fighters contracts to contain such a provision for non-refundable training expenses. Moreover, Mr Chavez himself testified last week that he never saw the \$350,000 that Mr King has claimed was paid to him.



Winning ways: Supporters celebrate the victory of Salmin Amour, candidate of the ruling party in Zanzibar's presidential election. The result, announced yesterday, is disputed by the opposition, which claims fraud

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international

Kurdish MPs freed for 'Europe's sake'

HUGH POPE

Istanbul

Turkey's Supreme Court ordered the release of two ethnic Kurd former MPs yesterday, but upheld 15-year sentences against four others, including the Nobel Peace Prize nominee Leyla Zana.

The court also ordered that the two released men, Ahmet Turk and Sedat Yurtas, as well as two other Kurdish leaders freed last year, should face new trials under Article 8 of the anti-terrorism law for supporting the Kurdish nationalists.

"It's a disgrace, a purely political decision," said Mahmut Alinak, released last year and the only one to regain his parliamentary seat. "My original conviction was based on fabrications by policemen and informers. It's just some make-up to look good for Europe."

The European Parliament has demanded the release of all six former MPs as a condition for ratifying a key customs union agreement with its Muslim neighbour.

Conservative Turks have resisted, saying that most of the MPs were convicted for links to rebels of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

"They should be executed," said Nusret Demirli, the outgoing chief prosecutor of the State Security Court system.

The Europeans have also

demanded reform of Article 8, which sets out jail terms of 2-5 years and heavy fines for "propaganda against the indivisibility of Turkey." The government's revised version of Article 8 passed a parliamentary commission on Wednesday.

It will empower the state to close radio and TV stations from one to 15 days as a punishment, but is otherwise less onerous.

Penalties are to be reduced to one to three years in prison; "propaganda" is less broadly defined and sentences may be suspended or turned into fines.

The legislation will also be retroactive. If implemented, several of 170 writers, intellectuals and Kurdish nationalists may be freed from jail and many of the trials of another 5,500 people may be dropped.

"This is all there is going to be. With this, the European Parliament can make its decision in December."

At this rate, Turkey will be lucky to get Customs Union, a European diplomat in Ankara.

Another said it was a step forward, if limited, and that the commission in Brussels still supported the free trade pact.

The Turkish establishment, however, has only half an eye on the Customs Union bid. Its attention is almost completely consumed by a political crisis out of which the conservative

Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, is supposed to form a coalition government with the Social Democrats by 5 November or fall. Parliament yesterday discussed a bid to set an early election date of 24 December.

Politicians are prisoners of their rhetorical demands for the earliest election possible, yet the date is one that none of the well-paid parliamentarians really wants.

Any date before the spring is also probably unachievable, given the millions of names in Turkey and abroad that must be added to electoral rolls, and therefore is likely to be thrown out by the Constitutional Court.

"There's no flour and sugar, yet you want us to make halva," said an exasperated Nihat Yavuz, head of the Supreme Election Board.

Mrs Ciller did have some good news yesterday as she finally settled a five-week-old strike by up to half of Turkey's 600,000 public sector workers. She will now have to find the money to pay for that and an equally generous deal with 1.5 million civil servants, at the same time as sticking to an IMF-ordered programme to cure annual inflation now ticking up over 90 per cent.

But that little problem, like most things in today's turbulent Turkey, is something everyone seems happy to leave to tomorrow.



Freedom trail: Kurdish MPs Sirri Sakik and Mahmut Alinak (right) after hearing two colleagues are to be released

Villagers slaughtered by Tamil Tiger women

TIM MCGIRK
New Delhi

Led by "an elderly fat woman", 300 Tamil women guerrillas descended on a village in northern Sri Lanka before dawn yesterday and silently massacred 24 people with knives and clubs. The massacre is being interpreted by Colombo as an attempt to lure troops away from the siege of the Tamils' northern stronghold of Jaffna.

The victims were Sinhalese Buddhists, the ethnic minority in Sri Lanka. Colombo is locked into an ethnic war against revolutionaries, who control the northern side of the island. Raiders also attacked other Sinhalese villages over the past

five days, killing 115 civilians.

An army spokesman said the government may arm Sinhalese who are in the battle zone. The army has poured 30,000 troops into the Jaffna peninsula to try to dislodge the Tamil Tigers from their base in Jaffna, a town of 500,000 people.

Military experts say the guerrillas, who for a decade had maintained their own fortress-state on the peninsula, are trying to draw government troops away. About 425 guerrillas — many of them children of 11 and 12 — were killed and 500 wounded in the army's eight-day offensive. Thousands of Tamils are said to be fleeing the fighting and the Tamil Tiger leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, is reported to have fled to a jungle

hide-out. The heavy death-toll has begun to cripple the Tamil Tigers, who are outnumbered by the government troops by about four to one.

Until now, the guerrillas only took volunteers. But after the latest casualties they are calling on parents to send their boys and girls into battle. "Your country of Tamil Eelam needs you. To save our land we need reinforcements," the Tamil Tigers urged in a radio broadcast recently.

The army has fought its way

close to Jaffna town but the government seems to be hesitating before moving any closer. An all-out attack on Jaffna could trap thousands of helpless civilians in the cross-fire, according to aid agencies.

Dead babies cast shadow over Japan

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

"The newspapers and TV said that the whole place stank terribly," said the landlord of the small apartment building.

"But there was no smell at all. In the messiest room I found a bag, and it was only when I opened it that the smell came out, and after that — horror."

It was left to the police and pathologists to work out exactly what the horror was: the bodies of seven babies, carefully sealed in vinyl bags.

The cheap apartment in the anonymous dormitory town of Kashiwa, north-east of Tokyo, had been rented by a local taxi driver and his wife. Last June she died suddenly of uterine cancer. Two months later her husband disappeared, leaving 10

months rent unpaid. The woman had never appeared remotely pregnant, according to neighbours, in the nine years that the couple had lived in the apartment.

The bodies, moreover, were judged to have been dead for at least a decade. The aggrieved couple had apparently moved to their new home carrying with them a bag of dead babies.

It seemed like a ghastly freak occurrence — until last weekend, when an equally grim and incredible discovery was made in a company nursery in Tokyo.

An employee called the police after noticing a strange smell in the building. Inside a closet were found five paper bags containing eight infant corpses wrapped in plastic, ranging in age from a few days to a few months.

Yukiko Mikami, a married 43-year-old mother of two daughters, had worked in the crèche as a part-time nurse until last year. She was immediately arrested. Mikami confessed and was charged with abandoning the babies. Yesterday, two more tiny bodies were discovered in a trunk at her home. She told police that all the children were her own.

What do these two dreadful incidents mean? Infanticide has never appeared to be a particular problem in modern Japan, although during the famines of the feudal period it was common for children to be smothered, or exposed, simply to conserve food for their older siblings.

These days the rates of abortion and infanticide are much higher, largely because of the lack of effective contraception.

Japanese Buddhism has a special deity, Jizo, who is believed to watch over and protect the souls of the mizuko — miscarried or aborted children — and most neighbourhoods contain a small shrine to him, pathetically adorned with offerings of toys, sweets and baby clothes.

Deaths of both cases have

still not emerged, and when they do, will no doubt be thoroughly picked over by Japan's sensational weekly magazines.

The most obvious conclusion is that Japanese society is rapidly becoming as splintered and alienated as that of most industrialised countries — a place where 18 babies can be born, left to die, and remain completely unnoticed.

Keating's republic under attack

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Confessing that he finds the Queen "a consoling figure", Bill Hayden, Australia's Governor-General, waded into controversy again yesterday when he attacked the government's plans for a republic on grounds that it could make proper government unworkable.

Mr Hayden, a former Labor government minister, and one-time republican himself, has come under fire recently for breaking the convention that the Queen's Australian representative, like the monarch herself, does not comment on public issues. He has made speeches supporting euthanasia, same-sex marriage and free markets, and has been uninhibited in expressing his views about Australia's constitutional future.

In an interview yesterday with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr Hayden inflamed republicans, who regard him as a turncoat for sounding warning bells against the plan by Paul Keating, the Labor Prime Minister, to hold a referendum on the monarchy by 2001. Mr Hayden directed his main criticism at the government proposal for the Queen to be replaced by a president elected by a two-thirds majority of both houses of the federal parliament.

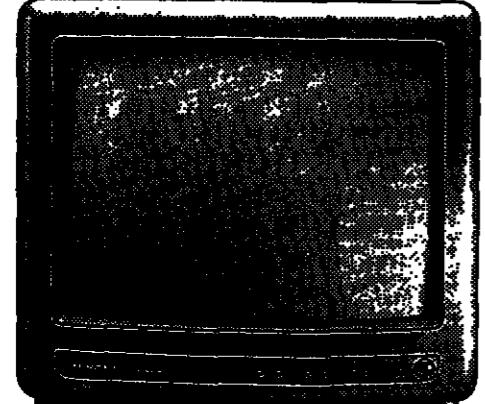
This, he said, could run into "very serious pitfalls" if the elected president turned out to be a "populist opportunist" who could make the proper process of government "difficult to sustain".

Mr Hayden also referred to an attack on him last week in the *Telegraph Mirror*, a daily Sydney tabloid owned by Rupert Murdoch, which claimed that Mr Hayden's spending on travel and entertaining had become excessive. He rejected the charge, saying that spending had fallen by 3 per cent a year in real terms since he moved into the Governor-General's Canberra residence seven years ago.

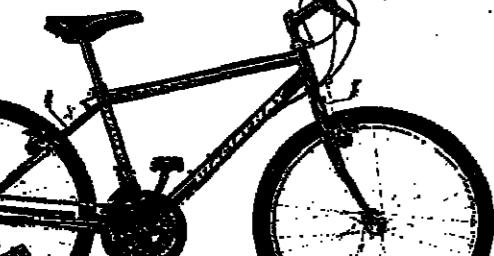
He had little doubt that recent attacks on his vice-regal lifestyle were linked to the Labour Party's dismay over his failure to keep his views on a republic to himself. He said: "I'll tell [the Queen] how bitterly unfairly I have been treated."

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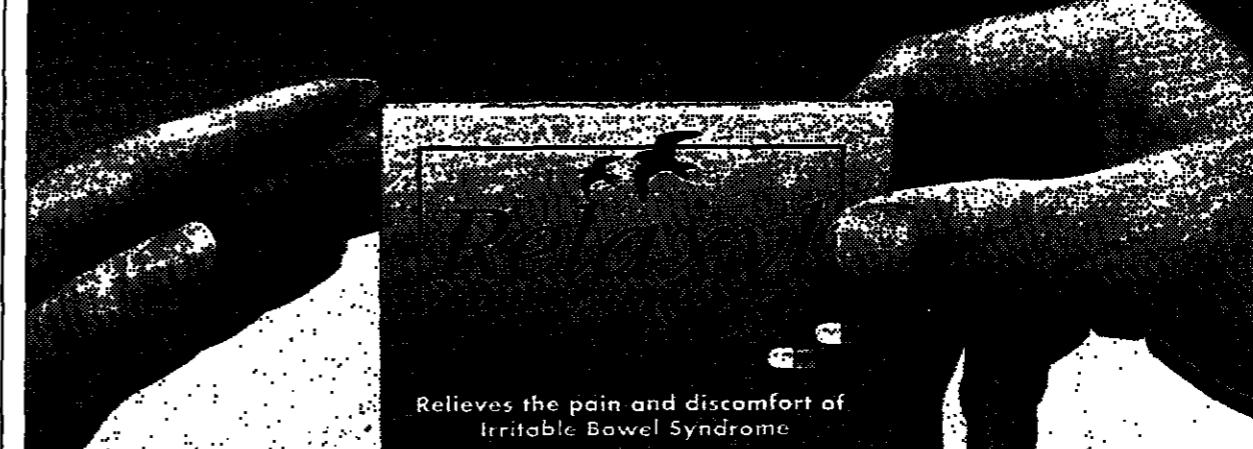
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obituaries/gazette

Bobby Riggs

Bobby Riggs was one of the most colourful and compelling characters ever to play the game of tennis, a gambling man off the court who understood the on-court percentages better than anyone, an amiable prankster who was enamoured with competition and explored every avenue leading to triumph. He was one of the leading American players to come along in the first half of the century, and he had a record of remarkable consistency. Riggs was Wimbledon champion in 1939, twice the United States champion at Forest Hills in 1939 and 1941, and a three-time US Professional champion in the 1940s.

Furthermore, he was twice the top-ranked American in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and an able representative of the United States in Davis Cup competition. By the end of the 1940s, when he was still only in his early thirties, Riggs quit playing professional tennis, becoming a promoter for the tour and signing other competitors to contracts. Later, he captured an immense collection of US National senior events (for

players over 45) in the US. But he had been a superb strategist and an admirable champion in his prime, it was not until he reached the ripe old age of 55 that he gained his greatest prominence.

Always a terrific showman, he challenged the world No 1 woman player, Margaret Smith Court, to a challenge match on Mother's Day in 1973, and the shy Australian won this match with her shy Australian opponent before they even walked on court outside San Diego, California. Riggs presented Court with a bouquet of flowers at court-side, then proceeded to toy with an entirely apprehensive adversary who could not handle the pressure. Riggs moved swiftly and easily to a 6-2, 6-1 victory. And that set the stage for his legendary 'Battle of the Sexes' with Billie Jean King at the Astrodome in Houston, Texas on 20 September 1973.

Probably no match has done more to heighten the popularity of the game than this intriguing confrontation. Many authorities believed the wily Riggs would prevail since Court was the best player in the world

of women's tennis with King a cut behind at No 2. For months leading up to the contest, Riggs was featured on magazine covers, seen ceaselessly on television talk shows, and heard on every radio station from coast to coast in America. Had he won, he might have continued to compete against top women players for some time to come; but it was King who rose to the occasion and she took Riggs apart 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in a devastatingly efficient and imposing performance. When it was over – and right up until this day – close followers of the sport and fellow players have accused Riggs of deliberately losing, but he insisted that was not the case.

As he told *World Tennis* magazine in 1990 "I didn't let Billie Jean win. I bet on that match and I bet on Bobby Riggs and I lost. The truth of the matter is I did not play a good match. If I had won I could have had a rematch. It was a bitter, bitter defeat. Throwing the match couldn't be further from the truth. Losing to her was the most disappointing, disheartening experience of my life. I underestimated her and overestimated myself."

Much more often than not, Riggs had a keen instinct for what he could or could not accomplish. Coming to Wimbledon for the first time in 1939, he was convinced he could sweep the singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. After a successful run in the junior ranks, he had risen steadily in men's amateur tennis. At 16 he had his first big win, over his countryman Frank Shields. By the time he was 18, Riggs was the fourth-best player in the US, and in 1937 and 1938 he was the No 2 behind Don Budge. On his debut at Wimbledon Riggs placed bets that he would take all three titles, and stood to win



The most underrated champion in the history of tennis: Riggs on his way to victory in the men's singles final at Wimbledon, 1939

more than \$100,000. Somehow undaunted by the enormous pressure he had placed on himself to live up to those large expectations, he became the only player ever to realise the astounding feat of taking the Wimbledon triple on his first attempt, joining his countryman Elwood Cooke for the men's doubles title and partnering his countrywoman Alice Marble to the mixed doubles crown. But his vast financial gain was squandered swiftly as he lost it all on other gambling pursuits. At 21, Riggs had learnt a hard lesson, but he remained a betting man all through his life.

And yet, he clearly had many more successes than failures over the years. And the image of him as a hustler was not en-

tirely accurate. He had too much character to be considered only in that capacity. As his old rival Jack Kramer once said of Riggs: "Bobby was always looking for an edge. If you played cards with him, he would try to get a peek at your hand. To him, that was just part of the game. But Bobby Riggs was one of the most honourable men I've met in my life. And he was a great champion. I guarantee you he is the most underrated champion in the history of tennis."

Six months before he died of cancer – he had battled the disease bravely for seven years – Riggs was given a high honour at the tennis club he owned in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California. With a sterling collection of

great players assembled, a sculpture of the Riggs of 1939 was unveiled, and it was announced that the Bobby Riggs Tennis Museum and Foundation would open there this December. Kramer attended that ceremony, as did Pancho Gonzalez, Pancho Segura, Vic Seixas, Alces Olmedo, Ted Schroeder and other notable names. Riggs was buoyant as he talked about leaving behind his scrapbooks and trophies and other memorabilia, and delighted that the public would remember him and recognise what he accomplished and who he was.

As he spoke effusively about the museum and his legacy, Riggs concluded, "People will be able to see all of the stuff that

Stev Flink
Robert Larimore Riggs, tennis player; born Los Angeles 25 February 1918; member, US Davis Cup team 1938-39; Wimbledon Singles Champion 1939; Doubles Champion 1939; Mixed Doubles Champion 1939; US Singles Champion 1939, 1941; US Mixed Doubles Champion 1940; twice married (four sons, one daughter); died Leucadia, California 25 October 1995.



Riggs with Billie Jean King after she had beaten him 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in the 'Battle of the Sexes' match, Houston Astrodome 1973

Emile Jonaissant

In a life spanning 82 years, Emile Jonaissant had his five months of fame. He was the *de facto* President of Haiti appointed in May 1994 by the military junta that had overthrown the elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide three years earlier. By October, the generals had been ousted by a peaceful US military occupation and Jonaissant had retired.

He will no doubt be remembered as a misguided patriot who backed the wrong horse – the junta – against the Americans and Aristide, who returned to Haiti in glory once the generals had fled.

But Jonaissant in fact played a key role in sparing his country what would have been a swift but bloody US invasion on the night of 18-19 September 1994.

Jonaissant was born in the north-western town of Port-de-Paix. He studied Greco-Latin culture and was elected Haiti's youngest-ever senator at the age of 37 in 1950, before the years of the Duvalier dynasty. He was little-known during the Duvalier years, working as a classics professor, a judge and eventually a Supreme Court justice.

After the younger Duvalier, Jean-Claude ("Baby Doc"), was forced into exile in February 1986, Jonaissant was appointed by the interim military ruler Lt-Gen Henri Namphy as President of the Constituent Assembly that drew up a new constitution in 1987. He then served in the State Council, a body of wise men that helped guide Haiti towards new elec-

tions in 1990, won by Aristide. When Lt-Gen Raoul Cedras, leader of the 1991 coup that toppled Aristide, appointed Jonaissant provisional President of Haiti on 11 May 1994 – an appointment never recognised abroad – it was precisely for his honourable reputation, to give the generals an air of legitimacy. Angered by US threats of intervention, the "President" grew into the nationalistic role which led to his being branded a traitor by the Aristide camp.

Not everyone agreed. Opponents of Aristide were delighted when, in a rambling Creole speech in the small hours of 11 June 1994 – sprinkled with voodoo references – the *de facto* President declared a state of emergency and asked Haitians to fight to the death against any American intervention. "If they thought we had an atomic bomb, they would respect us," he was quoted as saying.

"When he realised his countrymen were going to die, he single-handedly stopped the invasion," said his long-time friend Aubelin Jolicœur, a legendary Haitian who was Gram Greene's prototype for the character Petipierre in the novel *The Comedians*. "He was the most honourable man I ever met. The fate of great men is to do great things without being recognised."

Phil Davison

Emile Jonaissant, teacher, lawyer, politician; born Port-de-Paix, Haiti 1913; President of Haiti May-October 1994; died 24 October 1995.



Jonaissant: "If Agau wills..."

In a last-minute gamble, the three Americans went to the Presidential palace and cut a deal with Jonaissant – even though he was never recognised as President – under which the generals would leave. The invasion became a peaceful occupation the following morning.

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When Hoon arrived on the West Coast, he had nowhere to live and nothing to do. To begin with, he spent his time people-watching. "I'd try to be invisible and zoom in on people and eavesdrop on their conversations," he recalled.

The first people Hoon actually met in California were also small-town exiles – Roger Stevens, Christopher Thorn, Brad Smith and Glen Graham. Together, they formed Blind Melon in 1990, taking their inspiration from America's leading musical outlaws of the Sixties, the Grateful Dead and

The rock band Blind Melon's last show in Britain was at the Mean Fiddler club in London on 8 September. Shannon Hoon, the lead singer, appeared on stage wearing a false moustache and glasses, and a red, flashing clown's nose. He looked like a man with an insatiable lust for life. It is the image by which he will be best remembered.

Hoon was born in Lafayette, Indiana in 1967. Lafayette was, he said, "a small, repressed community. You're able to live your whole life there and really be quite comfortable, but I wanted to see more." He initially took out his frustrations on the sports field in high school, but turned towards music. When he was 18, he packed a small car full of his belongings and drove cross-country to Los Angeles, ostensibly to broaden his horizons, but also with the notion of finding and joining a rock band at the back of his mind.

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off the road, after cancelling a handful of European shows, the "wheels had come off the vehicle," as Hoon later put it. The singer, who had publicly acknowledged his drug problems, went through at least two rehabilitation programmes.

But when Blind Melon re-emerged earlier this year, after making their second album, *Soup*, in New Orleans, Hoon sounded happy about the present, and optimistic for the future. He was proud of the record and elated at the news that he was to become a father. It had, he said, given his life a whole new meaning.

Soup had been less well received than its predecessor. Its dark, initially impenetrable songs couldn't have been further out of sync with the current fashion for re-packaged and instantly digestible punk rock.

Lyrical, too, it was a moving, often claustrophobic vision of personal breakdown and dysfunctional family life, rather than a series of teen angst sound bites.

Hoon's girlfriend, Lisa Crouse, gave birth to a daughter, Nico Blue, in May. Shannon moved his new family back to Lafayette, before reluctantly having to leave them to go on tour once more. He died last Saturday in New Orleans, of a suspected drug overdose.

Paul Rees

Richard Shannon Hoon, singer; born Lafayette, Indiana 26 September 1967; died New Orleans 21 October 1995.

the Allman Brothers, and adding a spiky edge that recalled the hugely influential alternative band Jane's Addiction. The quintet were signed to Capitol Records, and made their first record in Seattle. Hoon also accepted an offer from his childhood friend the Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose, to sing backing vocals on their single "Don't Cry", and appear in the subsequent video.

By the end of 1993, Blind Melon were MTV stars in their own right. Their debut album, *Blind Melon*, had sold more than 2 million copies in the United States, propelled by the jaunty "No Rain" video, which featured the "Bee Girl", who appeared on their album sleeves and with whom the band were to become synonymous. Their success kept them on tour for two years, which pushed the increasingly fragile Hoon to breaking point. A genuinely likeable and approachable human being, he was acutely aware of the many absurdities of the music business, and became progressively more uncomfortable when he was confronted with them.

When the band finally came

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Paul Rees

Richard Shannon Hoon, singer; born Lafayette, Indiana 26 September 1967; died New Orleans 21 October 1995.

Document production order wrongly made

LAW REPORT

27 October 1995

made a statement admitting sole responsibility for the murder. He was charged with murder. B later gave a second account alleging that, although he was present at the murder, his stepfather had killed the girl. At his trial he relied on his second account and was acquitted.

The stepfather was arrested and charged with murder. During committal proceedings against the stepfather, B gave evidence for the Crown. When cross-examined he admitted giving a first account and changing his story. He was asked about the instructions he had given his solicitors between his first and second accounts. B declined to waive legal professional privilege.

The stipendiary magistrate issued the summons on the basis that (1) his duty under section 97 to issue a summons was like the prosecution's duty of disclosure and if the documents contained previous inconsistent statements they were material evidence and (2) the public interest which protected confidential communications between solicitor and client protected by legal professional privilege, they cannot be produced if the client does not waive his privilege since the privilege is absolute.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal. B from the decision of the Stipendiary Magistrate, affirmed by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, to issue witness summonses ordering B and his solicitors to produce privileged documents.

B was arrested for the murder of a 16-year-old girl and

in evidence available to the defence. Robert Francis QC and Edward Cousin QC (Hunt & Coops, Peterborough) for B; Jonathan Goldberg QC and Joanna Greenburg (Green D Sa, Leicester) for the stepfather; Stephen Richards and Nicholas Hilliard (Treasury Solicitor) as amici curiae; Patrick Upward (CPS) for the Crown.

Lord Taylor CJ said that the use of previous inconsistent statements was governed by sections 4 and 5 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1865 (Lord Denman's Act). Lord Denman's Act contemplated cross-examination of counsel's having the inconsistent statement in his hand so that the procedure culminating in the document becoming admissible could begin. Section 97 contemplated the production by a witness of documents which were immediately admissible per se. Section 97 could not be used to obtain discovery. That was primarily what was sought here. The documents were not in the possession of the prosecution but of a third party. The summonses ought not to have been granted under section 97.

If the conditions for issuing a summons under section 97 were satisfied, the question arose whether the stipendiary magistrate was obliged to weigh competing public interests, following *R v Atzou* [1988] QB 798. Legal professional privilege was that of the client which he alone could waive. The principle that ran through all the cases was that a man must be able to consult his lawyer in confidence, since otherwise he might hold back half the truth. Legal professional privilege was a fundamental condition on which the administration of justice as a whole rested.

The privilege could be modified, or even abrogated, by statute, subject always to the objection that legal professional privilege was a fundamental human right. Once any exception to the general rule was allowed, the client's confidence was necessarily lost.

No exception should be allowed to the absolute nature of legal professional privilege, once established. *R v Atzou* was overruled.

Lord Lloyd and Lord Nicholls concurred. Lord Keen and Lord Mustill agreed.

Count Jan Badeni

Jan Badeni was one of the few Poles stranded in Britain at the end of the Second World War to succeed in making a new life for himself on British terms. Yet the future High Sheriff of Wiltshire's first contact with his country-to-be was inauspicious: he was thrown into jail as a suspicious alien by the first British official he ever met.

He was 18 years old in September 1939, when he and his family drove into Hungary to avoid the German and Soviet invasion. As one of the family had been Prime Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Hungary was familiar territory to the Badenis, and they were permitted to stay. But in late 1940 Jan Badeni decided to join the Polish forces forming up in Palestine to fight alongside the British. He obtained Hungarian papers which were endorsed by the British Ambassador.

Everything went swimmingly until he reached the port of Haifa in 1941. A young man speaking three languages and travelling on avowedly false papers was too much for the British intelligence men on the spot. Even his name did not sound very Polish to them (although they did originate in northern Italy, the Badenis were listed in the ranks of the Polish nobility as early as 1563). To be on the safe side, they incarcerated him in the picturesque Crusader fortress of Acre, where he moulderred for four months.

After his release, Badeni joined the Polish forces of General Anders, serving at the Cairo HQ and also in the desert with the Carpathian Lancers. He then volunteered for training as a pilot in the Polish Air Force, and was awarded his wings in 1943. He flew Coastal Command until the end of the war, and then transferred to the RAF. He flew helicopters during the emergency in Malaya, lifting a great number of casualties from the jungle. Back in Britain, he was given command of two helicopter squadrons, and responsibility for search and rescue along the entire east coast. He retired from the service in 1962, after being awarded a commendation by the Queen for valuable services in the air.

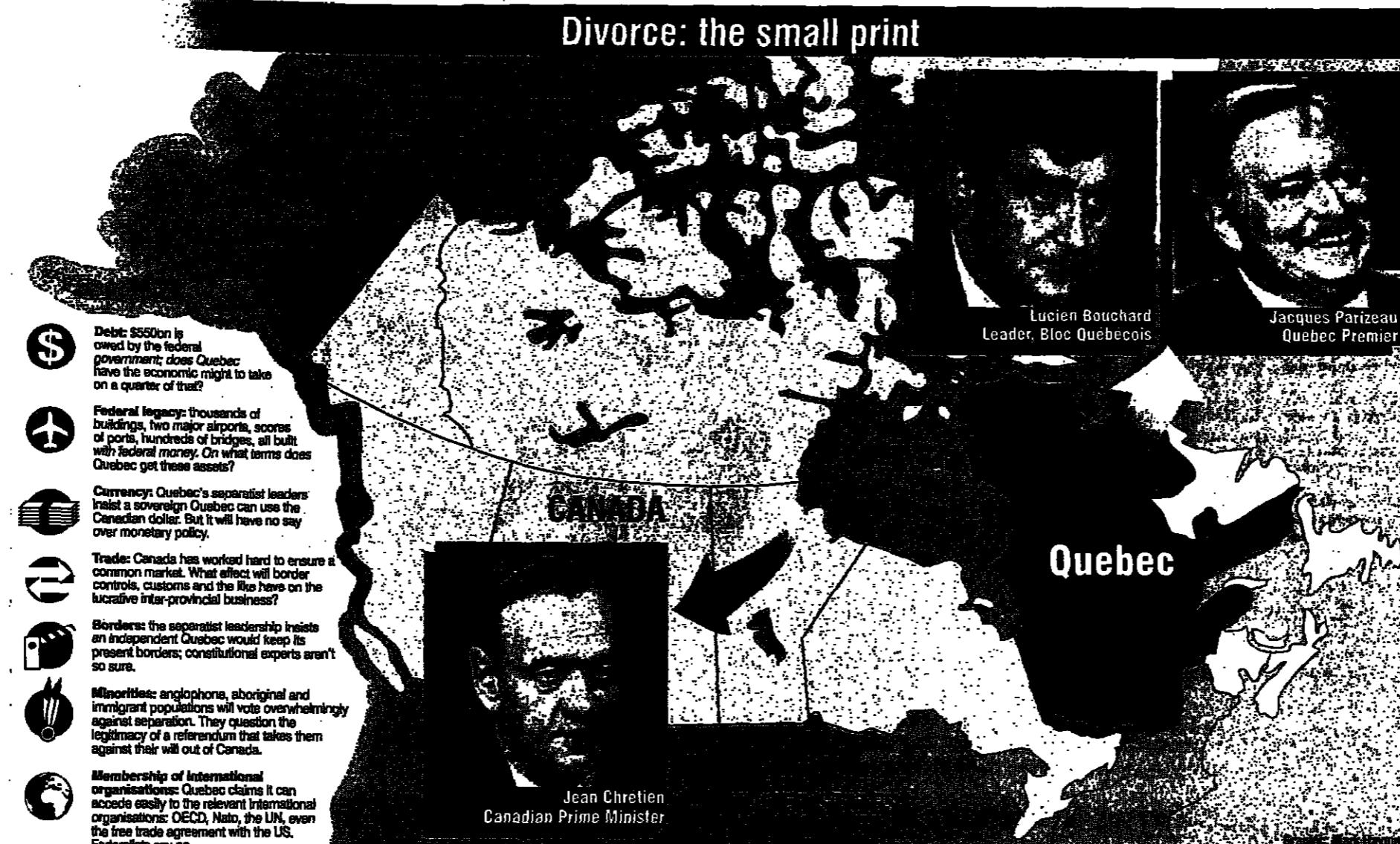
In 1956 he married June Wilson, the daughter of a Wiltshire landowner, whom he met while stationed at RAF Hullavington, and he later settled in her home. He started out in civilian life as a stockbroker, and showed remarkable flair. He sat as director on the boards of a number of public companies, and became a wealthy man. Towards the end of his life, he devoted more and more of his time and his wealth to voluntary work, mainly for Polish charities and cultural organisations all of which benefited as much from his sound advice as from his extraordinary generosity.

Badeni was greatly esteemed both in the City of London and in Polish circles. A tall handsome man with an aristocratic bearing, he commanded respect rather than camaraderie. Indeed, many who knew him well marvelled at how someone who never touched alcohol, who refused to be called by his Christian name, and who winced at bad language, could have survived 20 years in the RAF. This in itself was something of an achievement.</

On Monday a provincial referendum will decide Canada's future. The stakes have never been higher, says Mathew Horsman

If Quebec splits, the tremors will be global

Divorce: the small print



Quebec is poised – again – to leave Canada. If it does, and polls say the outcome is too close to call, it will mean the most radical redrawing of the Western world's map since the Second World War.

Fully a quarter of Canada's population would go. Nearly \$170bn of goods and services generated yearly would no longer come into Canada's accounts. The rump of Canada would be divided in two, with the tiny maritime provinces physically cut off from their citizens in Ontario and the west.

The prospect has unsettled financial markets; pushed the Canadian dollar lower and convinced many Quebecers to shift their savings to banks outside the province. The most alarmed among the population predict an economic meltdown, not just for the departing Quebec but for the rest of Canada.

Worse, they feel, any subsequent negotiation between an independent Quebec and the rump of Canada would create insurmountable tensions. For a start, it is not even clear who would represent Canada in any talks. The Prime Minister is

Jean Chretien, a Quebecer. He represents a Quebec riding. Seventy-five seats in the House of Commons are held by Quebec politicians. In a country where the relationship between the provinces and the centre is usually tense, who would speak for the rest of Canada in any negotiation with Quebec on the terms of divorce?

Yet despite all these worries, fully half of Quebecers (and a majority of the Francophone voters) are telling pollsters they will vote "Yes". If they prevail, Quebec will take up to a year to negotiate the terms of the split. If the negotiations prove fruitless, unilateral independence will be declared. Legal or not, few expect any attempt – in the courts or through more violent means – to halt the process.

The two key figures on the separatist side are a study in contrasts. Jacques Parizeau, the Quebec premier, is a patrician gentleman with an English accent procured during a stint at the London School of Economics. Blunt and sometimes bizarre in his public utterances, he is not as popular in Quebec as his cause. Lucien Bouchard,

the former Tory turned sovereign, leads the mighty Bloc Quebecois, the official opposition in Ottawa, dedicated to Quebec independence. A bout with the flesh-eating bacteria cost him a leg but gained him nearly mythical status in Quebec. He appeals to the "ordinary Quebecer" with his mix of

Who would speak for the rest of Canada in any talks with Quebec on the divorce?

plain speaking, passion and pithy turns of phrase. The cause they espouse has the support of half the province's population, a figure that shocks the rest of Canada.

Why do so many Quebecers want to go? What can be wrong with a country that tops international competitiveness sur-

veys, that boasts one of the world's best-educated workforces and a universal, affordable health care system? Why would a people so blessed by natural resource wealth, a modern transportation system, a massive market on its very doorstep in the form of the United States and a non-violent political and civic life, want to throw it all away on a roll of the dice, on an unknown and divided future? Surely separation is a disease of the Balkans, an extreme political decision more closely identified with a Czechoslovakia than a Canada?

In fact, there is a real malaise in the true North, one that has affected many other countries where different cultures, language groups and "ethnicities" have been forced, or have chosen under duress, to live together. To understand why Quebec nationalism will not go away and why there is a chance, if not this time then perhaps the next, that Quebecers will choose to go, you have to look at the history.

The country's birth in 1867 was the coming together of two founding peoples, the descendants of the settlers of New France and the victorious British, who vanquished the French army on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec city in 1759.

Rather than force the losing side to assimilate, to bury its culture and traditions within the bosom of the larger and stronger side, the British instead allowed the French minority to establish separate Catholic, Francophone schools and retain a different legal system (Napoleonic, not Common Law).

Over the years, but particularly since the Sixties, the Quebec government has exercised more and more powers: to collect its own income taxes (the only province to do so); to run its own pension fund; and to develop a stand-alone welfare system, albeit one financed by transfers from Ottawa.

Despite this "sovereignty by stealth", Quebec has seen the separatist option remain popular with a solid 40 per cent of the province. Nor has this separatist voice been quiescent. It has enjoyed a highly active presence for a long time now: from the 1970 terrorist bombing campaign of radicals to the election of an avowedly separatist government in 1976, to the high drama of myriad constitutional wranglings in the Eighties and early Nineties.

What does Quebec want? The question has dogged federal politicians for the 128 years of Canadian federation. It is indisputably the fact that

Why would a people so blessed want to throw it all away on a divided future?

Quebec is another country: different language, different elite. To be Francophone in Quebec is to yearn to be "maître chez nous" (masters in our own house). Said one Quebecer last week: "We have been paying rent for so many years. We want now to buy the house."

Reason might dictate main-

History of an uneasy union

1867: British North America Act. Upper (Anglo) and Lower (French) Canada are united in a confederation that by 1949 included 10 provinces and two territories, with a balance of powers struck between the federal and provincial governments.

1912: Statute of Westminster. Like other British Commonwealth holdings, Canada gets a greater degree of autonomy, shared between the federal and provincial governments.

1941: the Conscription Crisis. Quebec does not want its sons to fight Britain's war, but Canada insists.

1970s: emergence of new funding arrangements, including the creation of an equalization system to smooth out regional variations in welfare, education and health.

1971: Victoria Conference, when Quebec premier Robert Bourassa outlines Quebec's historic demands for being treated differently from the rest of Canada. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau introduces the Official Languages Act, an attempt to make Quebecers and anglophone Canadians feel welcome across the country. All federal agencies would henceforth offer service in either official language, and millions of Canadians students would be paid to learn the other official language.

1976: René Lévesque, Quebec's first separatist premier, is elected. The infamous Bill 101.

is introduced, mandating French as the official language of Quebec and restricting access to English schools and the use of English on commercial signs.

1980: Quebec says no in a referendum to a request by the government to give a mandate to negotiate a new constitutional arrangement with the rest of Canada. The federalists promise to attend to Quebec's needs by amending the constitution to Canada from Britain.

1982: the constitution is patriated to Canada and a new amending formula agreed, with the support of nine out of 10 provinces. Quebec doesn't sign and feels betrayed when the Supreme Court allows the project to go ahead.

1987: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney negotiates the Meech Lake Accord, which gives Quebec a constitutional recognition as a "distinct society" within Canada and confers additional powers on Quebec, but, by extension, other provinces. Filibustering in Manitoba and the opposition of Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells kills the deal.

1992: Charlottetown Accord, a "super Meech Lake," is put to all Canadians in a referendum. They reject it, not only in Quebec but in many provinces.

1995: Quebec government launches the latest "sovereignty" referendum, with the most recent polls suggesting that 50 per cent will vote "yes".

The break-up of Canada would also have a destabilising effect on other countries that harbour significant minorities. It is one thing to see Eastern Europe erupt and subdivide, but quite another when a country such as Canada succumbs. The signal sent to the minority Basques in France and Spain, for instance, or to the Welsh and Scots in Britain, would be unmistakable: modern, advanced democracies can and do break up. If a rich, modern, peaceful country such as Canada can fly apart, ignoring the efforts of 100 years of partnership and compromise, then what hope for the rest of us?

If the vote is "No", then some hard work will begin. Canada will have to decide how to include Quebec; how to keep Quebecers from feeling marginalised. By all accounts, nearly half of them do not like the status quo and desire some form of sovereignty.

In order to survive as a united country, Canada will have to prove to Quebecers, once and for all, that they are an important part of the whole and not just an accident of history.

Wilkes's

Wilkes has learnt that Sir Norman Fowler, former Tory party chairman, is being tipped to run for the chairmanship of the all-important 1992 Committee of backbench Tory MPs. The current chairman, Sir Marcus Fox, is being challenged by the silent-but-deadly upstart Bob Dunn, who wants to stiffen the 22's backbone and its right-wing resolve.

Sir Norman is to be invited to run by the centre-left Macleod Group and leading members of the One Nation group. His name emerged at a dinner of the One Nation Tories, even as the rival right-wing 92 Group was holding its own annual dinner.

The 92 Group, Wilkes understands, was split over whether to support Mr Dunn or Sir Marcus. The Old Buffers backed Sir Marcus. The younger Thatchertites backed Mr Dunn. The left of the party is hoping that Sir Norman will agree to run, and come through the middle in the middle. His only weak point is that he might be thought a lad too close to one J Major.

The announcement that Michael Heseltine is to go into the private London Club for the removal of kidney stones on 13 November was seen around the Commons last night as a possible explanation for his below-par performance from the despatch box on Tuesday.

The First Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister did not look too happy at question time in the

Commons against John Prescott. Of course, Wilkes was cheering for the Lion King, but it rather seemed from the backbenches as though Hezza had lost his roar.

No one will be wishing him a complete recovery more ardently than Mr Prescott. The deputy leader of the Labour Party has a vested interest in Hezza's self-aggrandisement at 10A Downing Street. The more Hezza inflates himself, the more Prezza hopes to inherit when Labour wins power.

Prezza is looking to Hezza to revive the equivalent of George Brown's Department of Economic Affairs – the long abolished ministry which challenged the power of the Treasury. That would allow First Secretary Prescott, post-election, to inherit a possible lever over Labour's Chancellor, Gordon Brown. The Shadow Chancellor will have nothing to do with such rubbish. If flowers and grapes are sent to Hezza's substantial private room by Prezza, he will know what is afoot.

Incidentally, Wilkes hopes Hezza will not try to get fit by going jogging

with his new Parliamentary Private Secretary. Following the deserved elevation of his former PPS, Richard Ottaway, to the whips' office, the Lion King's new bag carrier is none other than Seb Coe, the Olympic 800m and 1500m gold medalist.

The aforementioned annual dinner of the staunchly Thatchertite 92 Group at the St James's Club was one of the most convivial evenings Wilkes has spent with his cohorts in the Banzai Brigade. The knights of the shires proved they are a match for Lady Thatcher's younger disciples.

Sir George Gardiner, the Group's slate-like chairman, proposed that the "grey suits" who will be retiring at the end of the current Parliament should stand down immediately from various coveted Tory party backbench committee posts so that the group's young turks could be installed in the imminent round of elections. The highly conspiratorial Sir George is thinking ahead – with an eye to ensuring that the Thatchertites retain their grip on the backbench committees after the general election.

Leading by dubious example, he sent round a note before the dinner saying that he would be standing down as 92 Group chairman (which, conveniently, he will continue to be until next year), with the expectation that others would follow suit.

Imagine his horror when the good knight refused to fall on their swords. Wilkes joined the rebellion of the Old Buffers by throwing buns at the leadership of 92 Group during the soup course. Whatever happens, Sir George will still keep his hands on the levers of power. The man most likely to replace him is his lieutenant, John Townsend, chairman of the finance committee of Tory MPs, who this week published his own barny Budget, including massive spending cuts. One was the proposal to slash the British Army on the Rhine. The defence minister, Nicholas Soames, was telling friends last night that rumours of Boris Yeltsin's demise has sounded a swift death knell for that idea.

Wilkes does, however, have an entirely serious tip for the Budget: a

concession on the road-fund licence for veteran car owners. Sadly, this has come too late for Peter Butler, the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor, who has had to sell his beloved touring Bentley the kind of motor that made Britain great, because of the running costs. He is left with two Austin Sevens. In spite of their honest pedigree, they are not in the same league as the old Bentley. So much for friends in high places.

Wilkes is mortified to report that the Tory party officers of Kensington and Chelsea are a shower of boring, safety-first neanderthals. They have earned this name-calling by failing to elect any of Wilkes's chums as their next election candidate for the seat.

Tragically, Alan Clark is out of the running after offering them his celebrated CV, complete with reasons for and against picking him to represent them at the next election. He included in the "against" column the little matter of his being a self-confessed womaniser. They were amused, but not sufficiently so to let him go forward to the final six.

The questioning of the candidates was, by all accounts, bizarre. Melinda Libby, who should be given a Tory safe seat immediately, was asked whether she thought all journalists were louche. Ms Libby is married to one.

The *House Magazine* – Parliament's in-house journal/gossip sheet – hosted a splendid party in the Churchill War Rooms at the back of the old India office, giving Wilkes an unmistakable impression that he was back in the bunker behind the sandbags again. Wilkes was delighted to see among the guests the flame-haired Lady Hollis, the Labour peer who, it was rumoured, helped to persuade Alan Howard to leave the Tories for her party.

So it is the atmosphere in the Tory party that anyone seen chatting to her these days is regarded as a candidate for desertion. So let Wilkes reassure the whips that Peter Temple-Morris, the leader of the dripping wet Macleod group of Tory MPs, has no plans to defect to Labour. He's too

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Getting divorced from Olga

The possession of a small majority in the House of Commons must be irksome in many ways for Her Majesty's ministers. But of all the myriad disadvantages it confirms that of having to take Lady Olga Maitland MP seriously must be the pits. Lady Olga believes in the family - but not as the rest of us do. She believes in it as Dame Barbara Cartland believes in love, as an immutable, unvarying eternal institution whose benefits can never be doubted or questioned. And she isn't alone.

Pity then poor Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor - and an upright man desiring to do his best for the law. His Divorce Bill, a centrepiece of the forthcoming Queen's speech, is an honest attempt to remove some of the more objectionable aspects of the current divorce laws, while hoping gently to persuade more couples to stick together. He plans to remove quickie divorces based on "fault" (cruelty, unreasonable behaviour, adultery) and replace them with automatic divorce - effective after a 12-month "cooling-off" period. Any problems with his proposals lie in a lack of clarity about the availability of legal aid to divorcing couples (necessary) and the strength of emphasis upon compulsory counselling (unworkable). To any reasonable person, however, Lord Mackay's proposals do not seem likely to affect the incidence of divorce (a product of social forces beyond the control of mere governments), but rather seek to manage better the business of divorce.

Unfortunately Lady Olga and her pals are not reasonable. To them Lord Mackay's Bill is an assault upon the sacred institution. They are sure, beyond the need for evidence, that it will encourage the divorce-

pron and morally-deficient people of Britain to become serial spouse-dumpers. Lord Mackay is thus "demeaning" marriage. And her efforts have been supplemented by other would-be surprising moral majoritarians, like John Patten and John Redwood. Yesterday they were turning the screws on Lord Mackay.

So what? There will be a free vote. Opposition MPs are not likely to vote against the Bill, especially if the legal aid and counselling issues can be dealt with - so the Government can live with a chorus of groans from stage right, surely?

Well, no - not if yesterday's events are anything to go by. The temporary shelving by the Lord Chancellor of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill after representations (some of them incredibly ill-informed) by eight Maitlandites is an ill-omen. This Bill, which seeks to extend the ability to remove abusive men from the home, has been subject to the controversial "fast track" Commons procedure - the consequent haste may help explain why the backbencher's caricature of it as a co-habitees' charter was so woefully wide of the mark. Yet Lord Mackay was forced to agree to a postponement, to give him time to look at three amendments tabled by the backbenchers. The Bill may never return.

This is a classic case of the rump wagging the dog. And the Government may well feel obliged to accede to the same lobby as the Divorce Bill proceeds - perhaps giving way on issues such as lengthening the cooling-off period or retaining fault. But any Act coloured in this fashion would substitute nostalgia for wisdom, authoritarianism for enlightenment. Our tip to Lord Mackay is this: don't listen to Olga.

Time for a tête à tête

Co-operation between France and Germany, observed Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday evening, is "almost a scientific law of politics". However, as the late philosopher Karl Popper put it, a scientific law is merely a hypothesis that has not yet been disproved. Franco-German friendship is one of Europe's obvious success stories of the last 50 years, but it cannot be taken for granted. When problems emerge, they need to be addressed directly. Political leaders in France and Germany could make no greater mistake than to pretend that the problems do not exist.

Since Jacques Chirac's presidential election victory last May, the Franco-German relationship has clearly run into difficulties. One is the resumption of French nuclear tests, which put the German government in the awkward position of having to stand by its most important European ally while signalling its sympathy with anti-nuclear German public sentiment. Another is France's decision to postpone implementation of the Schengen agreement on abolishing internal European Union borders, a measure which to many Germans appeared anti-European in spirit.

However, the most burning problem concerns Europe's political and economic future, above all the planned launch of a single currency in 1999. Unfortunately, it appears that neither Mr Kohl nor Mr Chirac is yet willing to confront the question of whether it is wise to stick to the 1999 timetable or, in the wider interests of Europe's economic health and political stability, it would be better to aim for a later date. After their meeting in

Brussels on Wednesday, both leaders repeated the mantra that monetary union would proceed on schedule, the Maastricht criteria would not be tampered with, and France would have no trouble meeting those conditions. This is all too glib and serves only to hamper proper discussion of the issues.

The question that needs to be asked is not so much whether France can fulfil the terms for joining a single currency, but whether it makes sense for France to do so if the price is an unemployment rate of 11-12 per cent and a permanently struggling underclass. During his election campaign, Mr Chirac identified these problems as France's greatest challenges, but he has failed so far to demonstrate how they can be solved while the government simultaneously takes the knife to state spending in preparation for monetary union.

Germany advocates of a single currency fear that pushing the launch date beyond 1999 could bury the project forever. This is Europe's last chance, they imply; if it is not seized, everything that has been achieved since 1945 in terms of co-operation and friendship could disintegrate. But that is taking too apocalyptic a view. A delay in monetary union might be regrettable, but arguably the Franco-German relationship would experience still greater tensions if the single currency were launched under economic conditions unfavourable to France. Privately, Mr Kohl is thought to share this opinion. It is a pity that he and Mr Chirac consider it a taboo subject for public debate.

ANOTHER VIEW Nicholas Baker

Why we need asylum curbs

In 1988 4,000 people applied for asylum in Britain as refugees. This year more than 40,000 people will apply. That is not the measure of a world that is breaking up now - the world had plenty of troubled areas in 1988. It reflects the increase in number of those trying to get round our immigration controls and enter Britain by applying for asylum. Numbers applying to Britain are going up, while in the rest of Europe they are decreasing.

Britain, as signatory to the UN 1951 Convention on Refugees, considers each applicant's case individually. We should not retreat from that obligation in any way. Under the 1993 Immigration and Asylum Act there is a right of appeal against refusal of an application by the Immigration and Nationality Division of the Home Office to independent adjudicators who are court officials.

Of those currently applying, only 4 per cent are found to be genuine refugees. Ninety-five per cent of those who are refused and then appeal against that decision have that refusal upheld. So the claims of the vast majority of applicants turn out to be unfounded. They may have perfectly understandable reasons, economic ones for example, for wanting to come to Britain, but they are not genuine refugees in well-founded fear of persecution, according to the UN definition.

The appeal process takes too long, often prolonged by applicants or their advisers, and the costs are heavy. Despite substantially increased resources and flow

of decisions recently, there is a backlog of cases currently standing at 62,000.

Yet many applicants come from countries where there is no general persecution at all. No one could say that there is general persecution in Poland, Tanzania or Ghana, for example. It is an insult to those countries to suggest it.

The Home Secretary's proposal for a "safe country" (or "white") list is simply for a list of countries presumed to be safe, based on detailed and up-to-date analysis of events in that country. The Home Secretary's certificate that a country was safe, based on reports by the Foreign Office and other outside sources, could certainly be challenged but would establish a presumption that the country was safe. The applicant's case would still be heard individually, there would be no "slamming the door in his face", but he would have to disprove the general presumption that the country was safe in order to win his case.

This would speed up the legal process, which is clogging the system, often due to bogus claims. It would produce speedier justice for those whose claims fail and most of all for the genuine refugees to whose cause we are committed. A "safe country" list would make obvious sense and improve justice. It would help protect firm and fair immigration control. And that would be for the sake of good race relations.

The writer is Conservative MP for North Dorset and former Home Office minister with responsibility for immigration.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drawing the wrong lessons from Asia's dynamic economies

From Lord Hylton

Sir: Christopher Patten's article ("Spend less, let the people prosper", 25 October) was thoughtful, but needs to be read against the background of 16 years of Conservative government. During that time, personal tax levels have been reduced, indirect taxes have increased, unemployment has multiplied, while an ageing population requires ever-increasing spending on health and social care. The state sector has been dramatically shrunk by privatisation.

The economies of the Pacific Rim, which Mr Patten so much admires, are utterly different in kind from those of Western Europe. In the "tiger states" the populations are young, unemployment is low and investment relatively high, while the hinterland of the Rim, that is India, China, the Philippines and China, is often desperately poor.

Does it, therefore, make sense to compare two kinds of economy and society, when they are so dissimilar? Should we not rather consider what are the real needs in Britain and Europe and what is the most appropriate mix of public, private, insurance and co-operative methods for meeting them?

To say that some particular, and probably lower, level of public expenditure will necessarily produce a more desirable society seems doctrinaire. Mr Patten wants decent welfare, health and education, yet at the same time hopes to prune or dismantle state spending. How does he think education and training will be paid for by those who need them most, especially the unemployed and under-skilled? Professor Lord Skidelsky is called in aid, but what hope is there that the "new rich" will contribute significantly to the welfare of those less than average incomes, except through reasonably high levels of taxation?

One may also question whether Western European electorates automatically and universally want faster economic growth, and whether this will be sustainable in any case. Many might perhaps be happier with less congestion and pollution, better education and pollution, better education and health care, combined with more purposeful leisure and greater security in working life and old age. I hope that electors will find ways of showing clearly the extent to which they value public goods; even if these are in some ways intangible and difficult to quantify.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON
House of Lords
London SW1
25 October

From Ms Patricia Hewitt

Sir: It is regrettable that Christopher Patten, who used to understand the economic - as well as the social - argument for an effective welfare state, should now offer such a superficial analysis of the role of the state in South-East Asia. Praising these countries' low-tax, low-spending regimes - an apparent model of New Right orthodoxy - he ignores the Provident Fund insti-

tutions which fulfil so many of the functions of Europe's welfare state.

The Singapore Central Provident Fund, for example, has four aims: to raise the savings ratio, provide funds for economic development, promote home ownership and meet a variety of social needs, including retirement, disability, health care and (more recently) further education. Contributions from employers and employees reach a total of 40 per cent of earnings for people below the age of 55 and are payable for part-time and temporary, as well as full-time and permanent employees - a provision which would no doubt appeal to Mr Patten's colleagues who insisted on the UK's opt-out from the European Social Chapter. Not only are such contributions compulsory, but they must also be invested in a state-run investment fund.

Sadly, Western social policy analysts have largely ignored the double role of the Provident Funds in promoting both economic growth and social cohesion. But the debate about the future role of the state, in this and other European countries, is too important to rest upon caricatures of "welfare state bad", "small state good".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HEWITT
Deputy Chair
Commission on Social
Justice
Institute for Public
Policy Research
London, WC2
26 October

low self-esteem, an internalised negative image, and experience of emotional, verbal, physical and sexual abuse. One in five youth workers thought that distress revealed itself in tobacco, alcohol or drug use or sexual behaviour.

Recent initiatives in suicide prevention have focused on high-risk groups. As a matter of common sense, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people are likely to constitute such a group. Unfortunately, there is little contemporary evidence that we as a society are mature enough to address the needs of non-heterosexual youth, and until we are some of them will continue to experience distress, to harm themselves, and maybe die.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MCCOLL
Sheffield, South Yorkshire
24 October

The writer is as psychiatric senior registrar

Goldsmith's private party

From Mr Graham Watson

Sir: It is hard to compete with Sir James Goldsmith's millions, but his advertisement in yesterday's Independent cannot go unremarked. Extraordinary though it was, it was most notable for what it omitted. Throughout the text, Sir James is careful to gloss over the fact that one of the existing parties is in favour of a referendum - the Liberal Democrats.

We have repeatedly said that if next year's inter-Governmental Conference produces recommendations for genuine constitutional change, then we would favour putting its proposals to the people.

So one has to ask, what is the point of Sir James's party? Why bother with a political party composed of self-confessed single-issue obsessives and political ignoramus who are unlikely to win more than handful of votes in any seat?

Sir James's answer would no doubt be that, as a Europhile party, the Liberal Democrats could not be trusted to frame a referendum question that was, in his terms, "fair". But we, too, would consult with diverse and independent sources before setting the question. After all, a referendum would be self-defeating if its terms were widely held to lack popular legitimacy.

Yours faithfully
GRAHAM WATSON
MEP for Somerset and
North Devon (Lib Dem)
Strasbourg
23 October

From Mr Gerald Roberts

Sir: The Referendum Party is asking us (full-page advertisement, 25 October) to vote for a referendum the fairness of whose terms we cannot judge, until after we have voted in a general election.

It says that "a group of respected citizens" from both sides of the European debate will draft the terms. Unless their respectability resides in their prior approval of terms acceptable to Sir James Goldsmith, who will presumably select them, what guarantee is there that they will be able even to agree on what is fair? Or that we shall be able to accept their judgement if they can agree?

We are being offered a pig in a poke.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD ROBERTS
National Committee
UK Independence Party
London, W6
25 October

Four-eyes strike back

From Ms Frances Gilthead

Sir: Shame on Vicky Ward for her thoughtless "spéciste" remarks about "those beautiful Bostridge boys" (Diary, 24 October). Glasses do not automatically make the wearer undesirable nor pitiable.

For proof of this fact Ms Ward could take a quick look at her colleagues, or better still, ask Virginia Ironside, how she feels about such tired old stereotypes. Yours faithfully,

FRANCES GILTHEAD
Cirencester, Gloucestershire
25 October

Suicide warning for gay youth

From Mr Peter McColl

Sir: Pete Price's distressing story (Section Two; "I'm gay and I don't need a psychiatrist", 26 October) was very relevant today in terms of personal, professional and family responses to being young and gay or lesbian. Eighteen research studies in the US between 1987 and 1994 found suicide attempt rates of 20 per cent to 40 per cent in young lesbians.

I have inherited a draft transport policy document from Michael Meacher's team. It was to have gone to our policy forum for consultation in November. I decided, before I read it, that we should take a little longer and produce a policy document rather than a consultation.

I have now read the draft. It is useful but needs more work. It does not deal with rail privatisation. The view from John Smith House is that the content is good but the presentation weak. The view from Tony Blair's office is that it is a good draft that needs a lot more work.

On rail privatisation, there is absolutely no doubt, we believe the railways must be in public ownership. We intend to do all we can to slow down and prevent the privatisation. But whatever stage is reached we will ensure the railways are in public ownership. This is why we are warning anyone who is thinking of bidding for parts of the system that they should be clear of Labour's intention and that there will be no gravy train this time.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE SHORT
MP for Birmingham Ladywood
(Lab)

House of Commons
London, SW1

26 October

The writer is the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport

them for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.

Commissioned by the civic fathers in the early 19th century, these wine-coolers, and the grand group of furniture to which they belong, have been in the state dining room ever since and are part of Liverpool's heritage. June Dean in *Furniture History*, vol. XXV (1989) describes how, in those days, when the town hall's furniture was being purchased money was plentiful supply ... which reflected the increasing prosperity of the port.

Sadly, this is not the case today. The writer is as psychiatric senior registrar

in these gloomy times of local authority cutbacks. But surely this must be an urgent case for National Lottery funds to be used, enabling the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside to make a direct purchase from Liverpool city council of these wine-coolers and the rest of this unique collection of furniture, which is still at risk.

And why not?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY

H. Blairman & Sons
London, W1

25 October

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rit of Tory
survives
sin's 'death'

Young, free, virginal and not a dork

What's sex got to do with it? Some students major in friendship and celibacy – and are cool about it

I cannot say I noticed the young man at the opera workshop until he came up to ask me for a lift back to Cambridge which, having had the gumption to ask for, he got. He had been there with a dark-haired girl of his own age who, I assumed, was his girlfriend. I followed in my car while he returned his mother's car to the tiny village townhouse with a For Sale sign outside. He was out of the house in two shakes, threw his kit into the back, and we moved off into the nightmare of Sunday evening traffic.

At first we listened to a tape of *Dov Giovanni* very loud, but then conversation took over. He had graduated in medicine, was doing his clinical year, finding it hard. He was a musician as well as a physician. I found myself asking about one of my pet worries, condom use among undergraduates. I wondered if condoms had improved at all, if condom use had become *de rigueur*, as it has on some American campuses. Or if people still believed that too many condoms broke. His answers were curiously evasive. Then he said, "I've never used a condom."

"Heav'n's troubeskoy!" I thought and may have said. If students of medicine will not use condoms, then who in heaven will? Responsibility, leadership? Then, perfectly reasonably, by way of explanation, he said, "I've never had sex."

Steady as you go, I thought, being the last person to scream in disbelief at such a pronouncement. Don't make him feel weird. As we crawled past the millionth cone, I studied his face in the red of the brake lights. He was tall, well-set-up, good features, not a nerd

or a dork, that you could tell. He seemed to expect me to disapprove. I asked, "Have you ever been in love?"

"I don't think so," he answered, as simply as before. "I get obsessive sometimes."

By this time I was feeling like a dirty old woman in search of vicarious kicks, but I soldiered on. He did not find celibacy difficult, partly because his friends and colleagues were as celibate as he. Shared beds were a rarity. His sexually active peers were a conspicuous minority, and rather tedious with it. What he was concerned about was commitment; recreational sex was not an option. "Do you think this might be a reaction to so much marital breakdown in your parents' generation?" In some cases, he thought; but not, he implied, in his own.

In the midst of a culture that relies on immediate gratification of every impulse, and that stimulates all kinds of pleasure-seeking with a riot of intrusive imagery, this young man and, I believe, a large proportion of his generation are pure. What a world! The unshockable are shocked at the very idea.

I asked him about sexual fantasies. Not bothered by them. I copped out of asking about masturbation. Did he go to movies? No. And he didn't watch television either. When he and his friends had time off from studying and vacation jobs, they had fun out of doors, all kinds of fun. Who were his friends? Men and women he had been at school with, grown up with. No sexual attachments within the group? None. Sexual feelings between the



GERMAINE GREER

Shared beds were a rarity, his sexually active peers were a conspicuous minority

friends would be quite inappropriate. Gradually the picture emerged of a group of young people without siblings who had made of themselves a family, by building a relationship as enduring and committed as genetic kinship. One of the women had a boyfriend outside the group, and he reckoned they'd get married some day.

There is more than one sexual culture to be identified among today's young adults. Endless surveys giving percentages of people non-virgin at ages this, that and the other blur the contrasting options that confront people coming to biological maturity in our time. An important element in the choice of options is the peer-group pressure exercised at the school: there are schools where kids shag on the school bus, and schools where kids known to be sexually active are

ostracised. There are youth cultures where a blow job is a simple courtesy offered to a guy who is getting het up; contrariwise, the rave culture is far less genetically oriented than anxious joy sometimes.

Crackerbarrel psychologists might say that my young passenger had been irrevocably damaged by his childhood experiences, that he was carrying a huge psychic load of self-repression, that his circuits needed unblocking by the release of orgasm, that his sex-free lifestyle was unhealthy. Perhaps his mother worries about him and blames herself. Clearly my passenger was healthier than the teenage boys who attempt and often achieve suicide because they haven't managed to lose their virginity. He was more healthy than chain-smoking anorexic young women who have been sexually active since the age of 12. He seemed to me busy, focused and organised.

It would be too much to argue that he had made a rational choice based upon a risk-benefit calculation, because so much of the pattern had developed unconsciously in the way he and his friends of both sexes had built a relationship, but his way of life makes sense. What I thought I saw in him was another example of the way in which our children re-invent the world, finding new strategies to solve old problems, with a concentration of energy, optimism and commitment of which their elders are no longer capable.

I asked him if he thought our overheated culture of immediate gratification had run out of steam, because the appetites of younger

generation were sickened by the reiteration of sexual imagery in every imaginable context. He was too modest to make so large a claim. I must say I hope that is what is happening, that, as austerity gains upon us, we will find a generation that values joy above pleasure.

I asked my passenger whether he was afraid that, when he found the woman he wanted to spend his life with, the years of deep reserve would be hard to roll back and intimacy hard to achieve. He said he didn't know, in a way that suggested he wouldn't worry about it either. I reflected that here was one lover whose awakening to the riches of sexual love might proceed at the same pace as his partner's.

Years ago I wrote about the Dugum Dani of New Guinea, who have sexual intercourse one day a year and hardly think about it the rest of the time. Though my source was thoroughly reputable, I was derided as defused. No such people could ever have existed. The Dugum Dani think of themselves as normal: men whose thoughts are invaded by sexual imagery three times a minute would also describe themselves as normal.

Nothing is more protean or more susceptible to cultural pressure than human sexuality. Sexual expression is another realm in which anatomy is not destiny. What was most interesting about my young passenger is that his lifestyle has nothing to do with denial. He sees himself and his friends as self-regulating and un-enslaved – which was what the sexual revolution was about, after all.

The man with all the answers

I am very glad to welcome back the well-known modern historian Professor Norman Hunter-Gatherer, who has agreed to answer all your questions about the modern condition. All yours, Prof!

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: I think you may well be right.

Another thing. Limitations of news dissemination meant that news always got there several days later. If Waterloo was won on Monday, nobody would know this in Scotland till Thursday. Time really was relative. Literally so, because in 1800 the time of day in Cornwall was different from the time of day in London. They had different rooms, and so on – and it was only when the railways arrived, with the need for a timetable, that things were standardised. Finally, by about 1900, time had been standardised worldwide. It was only then that Einstein discovered the relativity of time. Is it possible that one led to the other? In other words that nobody, not Newton or Einstein, could envisage time being relative until it had stopped being so?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: Good point.

I am puzzled by the way that so many TV programmes are accompanied by people at the side of the screen repeating what is being said, but in sign language. Is this to help people who are watching the programmes on television sets in the windows of TV rental shops and who can see the picture perfectly well from the street, but cannot hear what is being said from the pavement?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: You may well be right.

Yes, my goodness, I had never thought of that.

I wonder if anyone has considered the effect that global warming might have on the relativity of time? We have read a lot recently about how the unwieldy warm weather has affected nature. Camellias and rhododendrons are blooming again now, which they were not meant to do until next spring. Many trees which should have shed their leaves by now have not even started to go brown. The trees are still green because the weather makes them think it is still last summer. The flowers, however, are blooming because they think it is already next spring. If nature, with all its built-in bio-blocks, cannot make up its mind what time it is, or even what year it is, what chance is there for the rest of us? Might not have all this given Einstein food for thought?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: It's a staggering thought.

Hold on! What kind of an advice column is this, anyway? All the information comes from the questioners – the expert does nothing to help at all! Is this what they call Post-Modernist, or what?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: I am sure you're right.

The Prof will be back soon. Keep those questions rolling in!

Behind a young girl's joyful remission lie complex ethical dilemmas. Polly Toynbee explains

Did the NHS cheat Jaymee?

The smiling face of Jaymee Bowen was a heart-warming sight yesterday, beaming from the front pages and the television screen in last night's special *Panorama*. "Never give up hope," she says. Sending a message to the health authority that turned her down for treatment, she says: "Now look at me. I'm fine. You could have paid for it. You had the chance and you blew it."

It has been a long, tangled and dreadfully painful story, and it is not over yet. Jaymee and her father remain outraged by their health authority's refusal to pay for her to have a second bone-marrow transplant in February. The question of the cost – £75,000 – clouded every other aspect of the case, and the health authority has

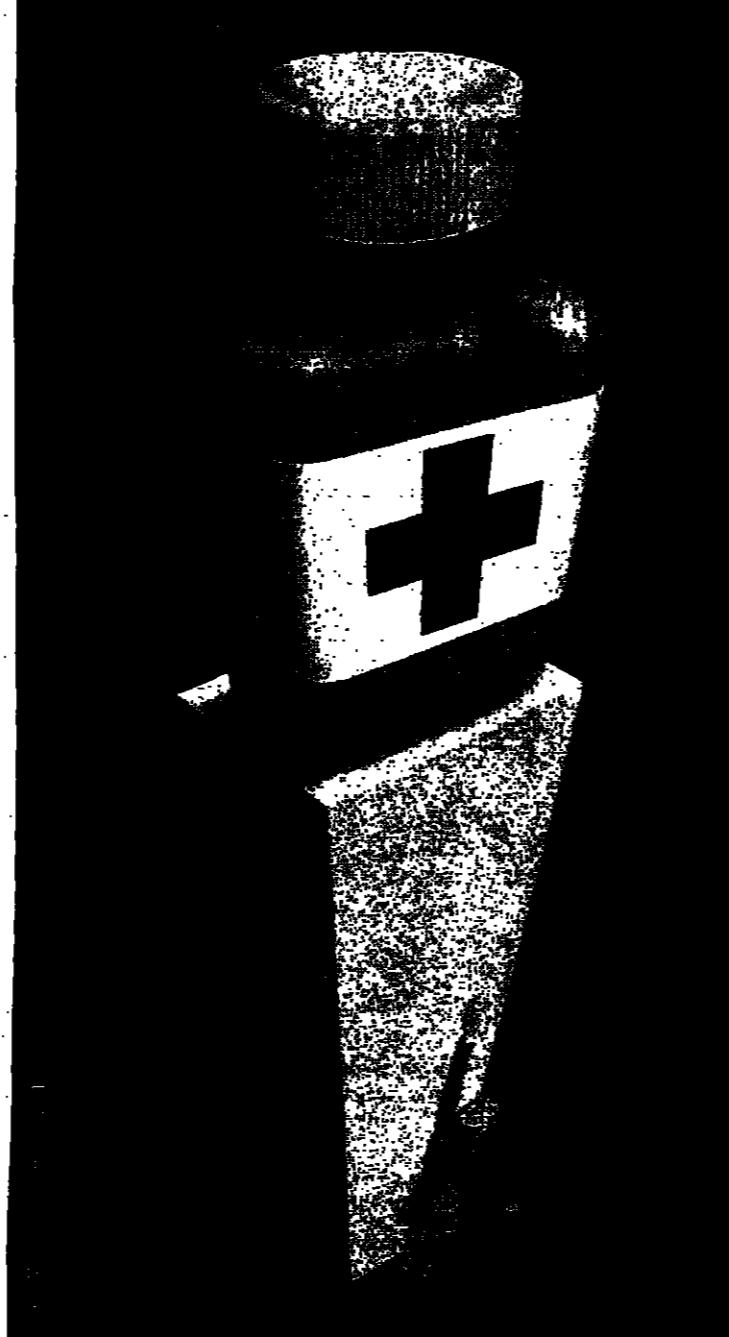
If a treatment offers a slender extra hope, should it not be given?

emerged as the villain. But that may be a harsh judgement. This story is partly about money, but more about conflicting views on medical ethics.

Jaymee has a very rare secondary leukaemia with chromosomal abnormality. Some 60-70 per cent of children now survive leukaemia after a single chemotherapy treatment; the few who fail, like Jaymee, go on to have a bone-marrow transplant. When Jaymee relapsed in January, less than a year after her bone-marrow transplant, she had already had every available conventional treatment and doctors told her father that she had reached the end of the line.

It appears Jaymee's doctors suggested she had a 2.5 per cent chance of survival, although this figure is much disputed. Jaymee's father took the view that while there was any hope at all, she should have a second bone-marrow transplant, a procedure which, leading cancer specialists say, they would never offer. It is painful, and there are no known cases of survival.

On the advice of the leading doctors in the field who belong to the UK Children's Cancer Study Group, palliative treatment only was offered to Jaymee. She might, they told her father, go into remission for a while spontaneously, but probably sooner rather than later she would die. Refusing to accept this verdict, he took her to the Royal Marsden, the specialist cancer centre in London, who gave the same opinion. A third



rapid transmission of new information from centre to centre – one reason why Britain has been at the forefront of childhood leukaemia cures.

Not surprisingly, the things the NHS doctors say about the outsider Gravett don't bear printing. However, yesterday they were all having to eat just a crumb or two of humble pie. "The child has done considerably better than could have been expected"; "This is a remarkable and exceptional case," they have been saying, expressing pleasure in the child's survival between slightly gritted teeth.

Back in March Dr Gravett had set their teeth on edge with a defiant press conference, announcing that he would treat Jaymee (then known as Child B)

As rationing becomes an increasingly pressing issue, this problem will recur

with a second bone-marrow transplant. A private benefactor put up the money. However, taking a closer look at the exceedingly bad figures for second transplants, Gravett changed his mind. He met with Professor Grant Prentice of the Royal Free, who recommended instead a brand new treatment – donor lymphocyte infusion. It involved taking blood from Jaymee's sister, treating it, and infusing the white blood cells.

Throughout Europe 52 people have had this treatment since it was invented four years ago, of whom 11 are still alive two years later. The 20-30 per cent survival figure Dr Gravett has quoted for Jaymee's current survival prospects is drawn from this small sample. Professor Prentice says: "My longest surviving patient is now at two and a half years. We are just guessing what the ultimate survival rate may be, perhaps closer to 20 per cent."

The official view of the UK Children's Cancer Study group remains that this treatment should only be offered as part of a clinical trial in a specialist centre. This raises the ethical question: if a patient has reached the end of every conventional therapy, and this new treatment may offer a slender extra hope, shouldn't it be offered to anyone in Jaymee's condition? No, the UKCCS still says.

Professor Clifford Bailey, chairman of the UKCCS, explains: "Very little has been published on this. If we followed up every suggestion of a

breakthrough without a proper trial, we would waste our energies on too many false starts." That, however, is unlikely to be the view taken by any parent of a child close to death.

Jaymee's health authority, Cambridge and Huntingdon, maintain that they would always have paid for an approved treatment in a reputable centre – it was the medical advice that led them to refuse to fund a second bone-marrow transplant. But the health authority did also have to consider the treatment's "effectiveness".

This includes cost-effectiveness. The low odds plus the extra suffering combined, they believe, would not have been worth the money. The chief executive, Stephen Thornton, is keen to point out that in the week they turned down Jaymee's £75,000 operation, they agreed a £500,000 treatment for a haemophiliac boy.

Cambridge and Huntingdon is now paying all Jaymee's bills, including treatment at the Portland Hospital, where she went yesterday for a 48-hour adjustment to her drug regime. If she needs a further donor lymphocyte infusion, and a "reputable centre" recommends it, the health authority will pay for that, too.

Jaymee's father this week went to court to lift the legal ban on identifying her so that he could raise money from newspapers to pay for more treatment. The judge said he regretted this, but in the circumstances, he felt obliged to agree. However, it appears that the money is unlikely to be needed for her care, as the health authority will now pay for any further treatments currently envisaged. If asked again, however, they would still refuse a child a second bone-marrow transplant.

Unfortunately, Jaymee's treatment is unlikely to prove a miracle cure. Most experts think that if donor lymphocyte infusion does prove useful, it will be just another weapon in the armoury against leukaemia, as they continue to roll back the death rate, extending survival time little by little.

Jaymee's case highlights two intractable dilemmas. First is the public's emotional rejection of the idea that any treatment, however expensive and unproven, should be denied by the NHS. As rationing becomes an increasingly pressing issue, this problem will recur. But just as difficult, any new development will always be demanded by the desperate; the question for doctors is at what point, ethically, to agree to its use, bearing in mind the extreme pain and suffering any patient may have to endure. There simply is no easy answer.

Generation Why



WITH TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT



A CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE OF FINE & UNUSUAL GIFTS INSPIRED BY THE PAST



Dale's bid
in focus
at pools
company

The board committee of Littlewoods, the retail and football pools company, met yesterday to discuss the £1.2bn indicative offer for the company made by its former chief executive, Barry Dale, writes Nigel Cope.

The meeting took place as Dawnay Day, the merchant bank representing Mr Dale's consortium, issued a formal statement confirming that it had made a "serious but indicative" proposal to the company, although it did not yet constitute a formal offer.

It is believed that the bank was forced by the Takeover Panel to release a statement after details of the proposals were disclosed earlier this week.

Some members of the Moores family, which controls the privately owned Littlewoods empire, were present at yesterday's meeting. The board, led by chairman Leonard van Geest, is now expected to discuss its findings with the 32 family members who own every share in Littlewoods, Britain's largest privately owned company.

Dawnay Day confirmed that it sent a letter to Littlewoods' adviser, Kleinwort Benson, last Friday. It said it hoped to work with the Littlewoods board and Kleinwort Benson with a view to developing the proposal into a firm commitment in due course.

Backers of the £1.2bn bid, which include top City names such as Prudential, Caudwell, Electra Legal & General, believe the family members may be prepared to listen to an overture.

A 75 per cent vote is required before a shareholder can sell to an outsider. Some younger family members are thought to be keen to realise the value of their stakes. However others believe that the company may be less well disposed to a consortium that includes Mr Dale, who was dismissed last year.

No rival bids have yet materialised, although some believe Mr Dale's approach may open a debate on the issue within the Moores family and flush out other offers.

Although Littlewoods, which includes the retail and football pools business, has been a poor performer, industry observers believe that with more dynamic and modern management the company's performance can be improved. Group profits were flat at £116m last year on sales of £2.75bn.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

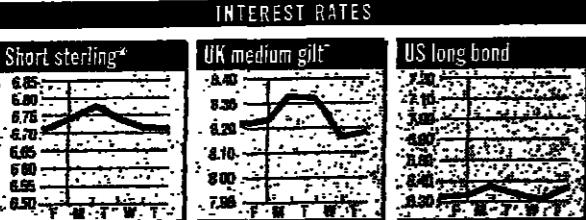
| FTSE 100 | Dow Jones* | Nikkei |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 3519.6 -18.2 -0.5 | 3593.0 2943.4 4.0 | 3300.9 3.5 |
| 3585.3 21.1 -0.5 | 3991.3 3300.9 3.5 | 3273.3 3.3 |
| 3550.5 8.2 -0.5 | 3785.3 1778.0 3.9 | 3188.1 3.3 |
| 3515.3 -6.4 -0.5 | 3683.1 1678.6 3.3 | 3165.2 3.9 |
| 3480.6 -8.8 -0.5 | 3574.7 1665.4 2.4 | 3146.9 2.4 |
| 3445.0 -64.7 -1.4 | 3574.8 1648.4 2.4 | 3136.4 2.4 |
| 3410.0 -244.1 -1.4 | 3569.5 1648.4 2.4 | 3126.9 2.4 |
| 9774.5 -66.6 -0.7 | 10032.9 6967.9 3.2 | 3117.0 2.0 |
| 2131.8 -18.3 -0.9 | 2317.0 1911.0 2.0 | 3107.3 2.0 |
| 1754.1 -10.0 -0.6 | 2017.3 1721.1 3.8 | 3097.0 3.8 |
| 9255.0 +175.0 +1.9 | 10911.0 8912.0 2.2 | 3087.0 2.2 |

*New Jones at 1500 hours. New Jones graph at 1430 hours

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| FTSE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts) | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Rises | Falls | |
| Polyphos 176 8 4.6 | Dunelm Bus Sys 409 67 12.1 | |
| Legal & General 670 29 4.5 | Whitney (George) 99 4 3.9 | |
| DPS Furniture 346 11 3.3 | Premier Oil 26 1 3.7 | |
| PGI 163 5 3.2 | Sectorcar Sp (A) 1005 35 3.4 | |
| Northern Electric 973 24 2.8 | Burton Sp 1045 35 3.2 | |

INTEREST RATES



| Money Market Rates | | Bond Yields * | |
|--------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Index | 1 Month | 1 Year | Medium Bond (%) |
| UK | 6.66 | 6.75 | 8.08 |
| US | 5.75 | 5.72 | 5.99 |
| Japan | 0.47 | 0.34 | 3.02 |
| Germany | 4.00 | 4.00 | 6.52 |

| CURRENCIES | |
|------------|-------|
| From | To |
| £/S | \$/DM |
| £/DM | \$/Y |
| DM/Y | £/S |
| Y/\$ | DM/£ |
| £/Y | DM/\$ |

| OTHER INDICATORS | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Yesterday | Today's change |
| Oil Brent \$ | 16.26 +0.23 17.07 |
| Gold \$ | 383.00 +\$0.25 386.00 |
| Gold £ | 243.22 +\$0.90 238.27 |

Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

Dow Jones plunges 86 points

The Dow Jones index dived almost 86 points yesterday after a string of poor profits news and fears that attempts to balance the government budget by cutting spending will slow the economy. It was the market's fourth decline in five days, made worse by two rounds of computer-driven orders to sell stocks.

Confidence in the market sank when Xerox Corp, waste management company Browning-Ferris Industries and Pyxis Corp, a maker of drug dispensing machines, reported unexpectedly weak earnings. "People are nervous," said Lance Zipper, head of Nasdaq trading at Bream Murray Foster Securities. "They had a great nine months and they're looking to hold on to the year's gains."

Eleanor Hoagland, chief portfolio strategist at AMT Capital Advisors, said she thought the market could lose 10 per cent if investors started to focus on plans to cut the deficit which might have an adverse knock-on effect on the earnings growth. Bloomberg

Allow banks to fail, says George

Eddie George (below), Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday told Japanese bankers that banks should sometimes—like Barings—be allowed to fail. Offering the Japanese, whose banking system has been teetering on the brink of crisis, the benefit of the Bank of England's experience, Mr George said: "The essential point is that last-resort assistance should only be made available to prevent the emergence of a systemic problem, not to prop up an individual bank, no matter what bank it happens to be."

Support had been withheld from Barings, one of Britain's most prestigious banks, because the Bank of England judged that there was little risk of its failure affecting other parts of the banking system.

650 bank branches threatened

More than 650 bank branches could close if the Lloyds takeover of TSB goes ahead, the banking union Bifi claimed yesterday. Bifi said it had located 652 sites in the UK where there are competing branches from both banks. The union is meeting with Lloyds chief executive Sir Brian Pitman and TSB head Peter Ellwood today to discuss these issues.

Hess to supply domestic gas

Amerada Hess is to enter the domestic gas market when it is opened to competition next spring, undercutting British Gas by at least 10 per cent on its current prices. The company will announce price on 5 November for households in the South-west.

CBI head warns on tax cuts

Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday warned the Chancellor of the Exchequer not to make political tax cuts that would put the stability of the economy at risk. He also said public sector capital spending should be protected, not cut in order to pay for lower taxes.

Boddington and Greenalls

A recent story about Greenalls' takeover of Boddington confused the two companies' finance directors. Alan Rothwell is finance director at Greenalls and would remain so under a combined group. Alan Garey is finance director at Boddington.

Holiday hiatus: Small operators face collapse while giants prepare to slash capacity

Travel trade bookings plunge

NIGEL COPE

The British travel industry yesterday disclosed that it has suffered a further slump in bookings that could force holiday companies to drastically reduce capacity next year and drive smaller operators and travel agents out of business.

The potential crisis follows industry figures which show that 1996 bookings are down by more than 30 per cent on this year.

Cumulative figures to September show bookings at Thomson, Britain's largest tour operator, are down 40 per cent. Bookings at Airtours, the second-largest group are down 50 per cent, while those at First Choice show a 6 per cent drop.

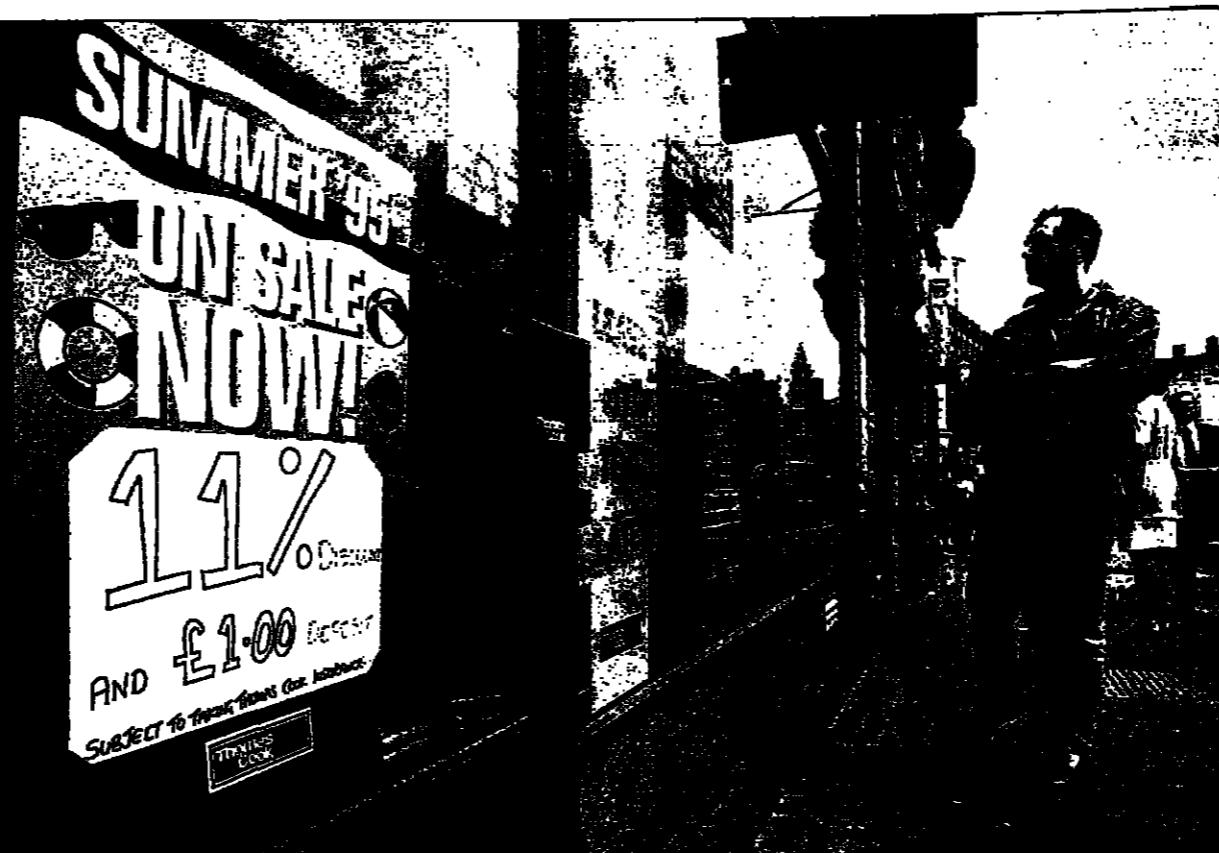
Shares in both Airtours and First Choice fell yesterday although the latter denied that the bookings slump might jeopardise its £24m rights issue.

Although autumn is traditionally a quiet time for holiday bookings, the industry is looking nervously to the key January period, when many summer holidays are traditionally booked.

If bookings for summer 1996 do not pick up then, holiday companies will be forced to reduce capacity further. This follows a nightmare summer for holiday companies when travel groups overestimated demand and were left with a million unsold holidays. These were then heavily discounted.

Larger operators such as Airtours and First Choice have already said they will reduce capacity for 1996 by 10 per cent and increase brochure prices by around 8 per cent.

But for smaller travel companies, many of which have already experienced poor trading this summer because of the



Summer of discontent: The collapse in bookings threatens a repeat of 1995's poor season

Photograph: Tom Pilston

heatwave, it could be the final straw. "Some of the smaller companies might find it difficult," a spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents said. Many smaller companies were already feeling the squeeze as suppliers' bills were arriving, while bookings were weak.

The figures on low 1996 bookings confirm the trend towards the late booking of holidays, which destabilises the industry. Holiday companies prefer customers to book holida-

days early as they can earn interest on the cash. Early bookings also tend to be made at the full brochure price, while last-minute deals are usually sold at a discount.

Tour operators say bookings yesterday that the slump in bookings appears worse than it really is because the 1996 brochures were launched in September this year rather than in August. This means travel groups have had less time to sell the holidays. Other factors include uncertainty ahead of next

month's Budget. "There is no panic," one said. "No one will really do anything before they see what January is like."

Tour operators say holidays in Spain – nearly half the market – are selling poorly. Cyprus is another poor performer. Winter sun holidays have been selling poorly.

The crisis follows the hot summer that has ravaged the travel trade's profits, with many British people choosing to bask in the sun at home rather than book overseas holidays.

Byatt puts leak burden on water firms

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

Ian Byatt, the water industry watchdog, has warned companies that they must bear the cost of reducing leakage from pipes – which could amount to billions of pounds – and will not be allowed to pass the burden through to customers.

Mr Byatt also said that companies would have to shoulder the burden of any "windfall tax" imposed by a Labour government, put by the City at between £2.5bn and £5bn.

He said: "Since the flotation of DPS, I have had numerous approaches from shareholders and potential new investors

asking whether I and my family would sell further shares. I remain an executive chairman and my commitment to the company is as strong as it ever has been."

Last week he assured investors that he had no intention of diluting his interest in the company by spending his money on other business ventures.

The share sale, which allowed existing investors to boost their holdings and also brought new shareholders onto the register, means Mr By

مكتبة من الأجل

business

COMMENT

The electricity industry is positively riddled with ownership anomalies – a rag-bag of rules and policy decisions that defy all rational analysis'

A golden nonsense from policy on the hoof

Free-market purists such as the late Nicholas Ridley never thought much of newly privatised companies from the threat of takeover. During the brief period he was in charge of water privatisation, the former Secretary of State for the Environment and architect Thatcher pushed hard to rid the sell-off of all market-distorting paraphernalia. Fortunately for the water companies, more cautious counsel prevailed. Yet the fact remains that golden shares sit uneasily alongside the principles of privatisation, which dictate that, once sold, companies should become subject to all the usual disciplines of the market place, the threat of takeover included.

If there is a justification for golden shares, it is this – that newly privatised companies need a period of adjustment, a breathing space in which to establish a sufficiently robust track record to ensure independence and deter predators. For companies that have golden shares of indefinite duration, there is a further defence – that they are companies of vital national importance that should not in any case be taken over.

The National Grid, apparently, is one. It is an article of faith among ministers that the National Grid should be seen to be completely independent. As a result an even more perplexing golden share than usual has been put in place. Nobody is allowed to own more than 15 per cent of the grid. Furthermore, other electricity companies are banned from owning any more than 1 per

cent – the regional electricity companies that presently own the grid have been given a year to divest down to that level.

The result of this is an electricity industry riddled with ownership anomalies – a rag-bag of rules and policy decisions that defy all rational analysis. For starters, there is no logical reason why David Jeffries, the present grid chairman, should be thought sufficiently independent to satisfy the Government's article of faith, but others with no connection with the industry should not. There are plenty of companies and businesses capable of guaranteeing independence, and delivering a better grid to boot.

Nor is it clear why those who push power around the country at high voltage should be guaranteed independence, while those who push it around at low voltage – the regional electricity companies – should not. So far the Government has done nothing to stop the frenzy of takeover activity among the Regs. The generating companies, too, have indefinite golden shares, protecting them from takeover yet if the guidance they have had from ministers is anything to go by, the Government is perfectly happy to see them acquiring regional electricity companies. One of them, Scottish Power, already has, while the other two, National Power and PowerGen, only await the Government's formal go-ahead.

While it may be important to protect "the pool" from interference by the Regs and the generators, the Government has had no

problem up until now with the Regs owning quite sizeable stakes in the grid; indeed that is the way the industry was privatised. In any case the pool will cease to have much meaning once full competition is introduced post-1998.

The whole thing is plainly a nonsense, an ill-thought-out muddle of decisions designed and executed on the hoof. Mr Ridley may have been right after all. A government that fully believes in the virtues of the free market should have the courage of its convictions and dispense with golden shares.

Regional revolt not all bad news for ITN

The news service provided by ITN to ITV and Channel 4 has come under some heavy fire, not just from viewers (many of whom prefer the BBC's version) but from ITN clients, too. At least four of them – the regional ITV companies HTV, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, Anglia and Meridian – have formally asked the Independent Television Commission to find a competing news provider capable of supplying news services in place of ITN.

The only obvious alternative to ITN at present comes in the form of Sky, the 24-hour news service provided by BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. Just what is being proposed here?

To replace one news service that many don't rate highly, with another that many do not rate at all? Hardly. None of the leading ITV companies is really serious about bringing in Sky. They are seeking, rather, a lower-cost news contract from ITN, and some of them view Sky's willingness to undercut ITN as the perfect lever. Are not the ITV companies in danger of seeing things the wrong way round, however? They might well be better advised to view ITN as a real investment, open to improvement, and able to earn a decent return in the expanding world of television news.

That is certainly how Carlton and Granada, the lead investors in ITN, should be behaving. But even the four complaining ITV companies might want to take a long-term view of ITN. Rather than push for cut-rate news, their better course might be to develop a reinvigorated ITN. There is, of course, a more cynical reading of the complaints. All of them are thought to be interested in buying the shares in ITN being sold by Granada and Carlton, which must lower their stakes below the 20 per cent maximum set by the ITC. If there is a chance of ITN facing competition from the likes of Sky, the price at which the shares change hands might drop. The four could get their hands on cheap stock.

That doesn't change the long-term attractiveness of a well-financed, aggressive news service. ITN should be a jewel in its owners' crown, not a cost centre to be whittled down to size. With the explosive growth of digital television just around the corner, broadcasters will be desperate for product. News and current affairs are always in demand. Why not create an ITN to fit the bill?

Holidaymakers resist travel trade hype

No matter how hard the travel industry tries to talk up the market, it keeps running into a brick wall of customer resistance. After a blazing summer, which burned a hole in many a travel agent's pocket, the whole industry was banking on a better 1996. Capacity has been cut. Brochure prices have been hiked by nearly 10 per cent. So far to no avail. The fact is that holidaymakers are not buying the marketing hype and their bargain-hunting tendencies are causing a steady drizzle on the travel companies' parade. With bookings for next season off 30 per cent so far, it appears that far from being weened off the drug of late booking, the Great British holidaymaker is becoming more addicted. It is possibly premature to talk this early of disaster to come. But if the booking slump continues much longer the industry will be looking at drastic discounts yet again. There is no panic yet. January is the key month for summer bookings. None the less, there is real concern in the air.

Murdoch under pressure: Introduction by disgraced junk-bond dealer opened way to investment □ BSkyB confronts OFT

Milken suspected of violating ban imposed by court

DAVID USBORNE
New York

Federal authorities are investigating Michael Milken, the former junk-bond king convicted of securities fraud in 1990, to establish whether he has violated a ban on returning to the investment industry.

Officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are reported to have asked to see documents of MCI Communications, in which British Telecom has a significant stake, pertaining to advice allegedly given by Mr Milken in the company's decision "last spring to invest up to \$2bn in Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

Mr Milken, who pleaded guilty to six counts of fraud in 1990 and served two years in prison, is known also to have advised in some other recent Wall Street deals, including the prospective takeover of Turner Broadcasting by Time Warner. Ted Turner recently suggested Mr Milken, a long-time friend, would receive a fee for his services of over £50m (£32m).

As part of a deal struck with prosecutors, Mr Milken, who pioneered the market in high-yield, high-risk securities that became known as junk bonds, agreed to be barred for life from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser, investment company or mutual funds securities dealer.

While the wording of the

deal appears to leave some grey area as to what Mr Milken can and cannot become involved in, there has been growing speculation on Wall Street in recent weeks that he may have crossed the line in recent activities, and that a formal investigation by the government was all but inevitable.

News of the approach to MCI was reported by the *New York Times*, which cited anonymous sources close to the company. No comment was offered either by the always tight-lipped SEC, or by lawyers at MCI. "All our investigations are non-public," said SEC spokesman in Washington said.

A lawyer for Mr Milken, Richard Sandler, told the newspaper, however, that he was "100 per cent comfortable" with the activities of his client, who is still serving up to 40

hours of community service a week as part of his sentence. He led the junk-bonds boom from the Los Angeles office of the now defunct securities firm, Burnham Drexel Lambert.

Mr Milken still has powerful friends in the highest levels of many of America's largest corporations, including Mr Turner, Ronald Perleman, Calvin Klein, Mr Murdoch and the chairman of MCI, Bert Roberts.

Mr Milken was reported to have introduced Mr Murdoch to Mr Roberts and therefore opened the way to MCI's investment in News Corporation.

The investigation into Mr Milken's junk-bond transactions was launched in 1986, even though he was not convicted until 1990. As well as serving time in prison, Mr Milken paid fines totalling \$1.1bn.

If the SEC request for documents from MCI is confirmed, it would seem to indicate that a formal probe into Mr Milken's activities has been launched. Such an investigation would almost certainly not be limited to his relationship with MCI, however, but would probably extend to the part he played in the Turner-Time Warner negotiations last month.

After his talks with Gerald Levin of Time Warner, Mr Turner took care to emphasise that in spite of the large fee that had been promised to Mr Milken he had not been present at any of the key negotiating sessions in New York.

Rupert Murdoch: Contact was made through Milken



Silver lining: Michael Milken, the convicted fraudster, after he was released from prison in 1992

Clash over Disney agreement

MATHEW HORSMAN

The Office of Fair Trading and two pay-TV companies, Disney and the broadcaster BSkyB, clashed yesterday over the implications of a revised distribution agreement governing the supply of the Disney Channel to cable operators.

Following a report in the *Independent* yesterday, detailing an OFT ruling on the supply of the Disney family entertainment channel, Disney and BSkyB insisted that cable operators would not be able to offer the channel as a stand-alone pay service, despite indications to the contrary from the OFT.

The companies added that under the revised agreement, the

handful of cable companies now offering only one movie channel would also be supplied with Disney on terms to be negotiated directly with Disney. In the past, both premium channels had to be carried in order to receive the family channel as a bonus.

Although the companies agreed to end the "exclusive" agreement between them, allowing cable companies to deal directly with Disney, they insisted last night that the channel would still be packaged with Sky's movie services.

In a statement, Disney said: "This approach was chosen to establish the channel as a premium service offering top quality family entertainment."

The companies added that under the revised agreement, the

misunderstanding," an OFT spokesman said. He added that the office would continue to monitor the operation of the new arrangements.

Cable operators conceded yesterday that the implications of the revised agreements were still unclear. "Until I sit down with Disney next week, I won't know whether the terms will be any different when I deal with Disney as when I deal with Sky," a cable executive said. "I don't know if I am still going to have to bundle the services."

BSkyB agreed last March to unbundle the sale of its own Sky channels to cable companies, at the request of the OFT.

KPMG takes step into banking

JOHN WILLCOCK

One of the six leading accountancy firms is going into investment banking. KPMG in New York has launched KPMG Baymark, an investment bank boutique that is rumoured to be considering share underwriting.

Merchant banks are now unnecessary for acquisitions and floatations of up to £1bn, leading accountancy firms claimed yesterday, as UK audit firms took note of the American move.

While KPMG Baymark remains independent from the accountancy firm, it will license its name and use KPMG's services for mergers and acquisitions.

One head of corporate finance at a rival UK accountancy firm commented yesterday on the BayMark launch: "We're all pretty amazed by that and trying to work out what it means."

Neil Lerner, head of corporate finance at KPMG in the UK, insisted that the BayMark launch was purely an American affair, and that the UK firm had no plans to underwrite share issues. "That doesn't mean that we couldn't get a club [of investors] together to purchase capital – but we have no plans to do so at the moment."

The corporate finance divisions of the large accountancy firms captured the UK management buyout market in the 1980s when the merchant banks were preoccupied with megadeals.

Formerly worried that the merchant banks would resent their auditors competing with them, the accountants are now competing on M&A work head-on, and going for larger deals.

Mr Lerner said medium-sized merchant banks were under increasing pressure from accountancy firms in corporate finance. "We are now seeing a polarisation between the bulge-bracket banks, like SBC Warburg, and the smaller houses giving pure advice. What will happen to those in the middle is not so clear."

Last week KPMG advised on and sponsored the largest public deal by an accountancy firm in the UK, when the engineering group Rubicon acquired Calder for £94m and raised £15m extra capital, bringing the enlarged group's market capitalisation to more than £150m.

UKTV seeks replacement for SelecTV

MATHEW HORSMAN

Today's decision on Channel 5, tipped to go to UKTV, the highest bidder, will ignite a desperate search by the channel's backers to find additional equity partners, sources said.

One of UKTV's current owners, SelecTV, is in talks with at least four bidders that might lead to the sale of the company, and none of them has indicated it would be willing to remain with the UKTV consortium following a deal, sources close to the sales talks

said. SelecTV has a claim on 20 per cent of UKTV, worth about £20m. As a consequence of SelecTV's likely departure from UKTV, the consortium's main backer, the Canadian broadcaster CanWest, is expected to approach members in losing consortia to bolster the share register. "If they win, then within three hours they will be on the phone to the rest of us," an executive in a rival group said.

The independent Television Commission is expected to review carefully any new investors in Channel 5, to determine whether they meet regulatory requirements. If UKTV goes ahead, any new partner would have to be Europe-based, and its inclusion could not materially affect the programming promised for Channel 5.

Today's award will be subject to a 12-week consultative period before the licence is awarded unconditionally, to allow final details to be ironed out.

UKTV, whose other owners include Scandinavian Broadcasting System and Australia's Channel 10, has been criticised

by other bidders because of its high foreign ownership.

In its original submission, the consortium made provisions for the addition of different owners before or after the award was made.

The front-runners to buy SelecTV, producer of hit programmes such as *Love Hurts*, *Birds of a Feather* and *Lovejoy*, include the media and information company Pearson, the financial services and media conglomerate MAI and Associated Newspapers. All are members of rival consortia.

Hat-trick puts shine on the dollar

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

President Boris Yeltsin's illness, the political survival of Lamberto Dini in Italy and new evidence of the blooming health of the American economy combined to help the dollar climb yesterday.

In a classic safe-haven reaction to the threat of political uncertainty in Russia, the currency markets sold marks and bought dollars. They also reversed some of the first's recent losses against the mark caused by un-

certainly about Italian politics and government finances.

Jeffrey Wu, currency trader at Sanwa Bank in New York, said: "The market is definitely reacting to the Yeltsin hospitalisation. Investors worldwide are selling marks because Germany is so close to Russia and is Russia's largest trading partner."

The US currency's advance against the mark was aided by a recovery in the lira. The lira recovered to £1.1429 to the mark from £1.159 on Wednesday, while share prices in Milan rose.

took the lira higher against the mark during the day. The lira recovered to £1.1429 to the mark from £1.159 on Wednesday, while share prices in Milan rose.

The third element in yesterday's dollar hat-trick was news of a strong increase in orders for durable goods placed with US factories in September.

The dollar lost some gains after its initial reaction to the flurry of news, but by noon in New York, it was trading at DM1.3929 and ¥101.46, up from DM1.3922 and ¥101.24, £1.150m.

Eine staatliche Auszeichnung für den Export-Auszeichnung (National Languages for Export Award) beweist Ihren Konkurrenten und ausländischen Kunden, daß Ihr Unternehmen den Handel im Ausland ernst nimmt. Die Auszeichnung zeigt, daß Ihre Gesellschaft über Kenntnis von Fremdsprachen und ausländischer Kultur verfügt. (In einem zunehmend auf Wettbewerb eingestellten Markt ein zunehmend nützlicher Vorteil.) Sollte Ihr Unternehmen eine derartige Auszeichnung erlangen, so können Sie das Zeichen links verwenden. Die Gewinner erhalten ebenfalls eine Trophäe und einen Preis. Wenn Sie meinen, daß Ihr Unternehmen für eine Auszeichnung in Frage kommen könnte, oder wenn Sie sich darüber informieren möchten, wie Fremdsprachen zur Wettbewerbsfähigkeit beitragen könnten, rufen Sie folgende Nummer an: 0117 921 7171. (Übrigens, das ist was unten in Englisch steht.)



A National Languages for Export Award shows your competitors and overseas customers that your company is serious about trading abroad. It shows your company has an understanding of foreign languages and culture. (In an increasingly competitive market, an increasingly useful asset.) Should your company gain an award you can use the logo on the left. Winners will also receive a trophy and prize. If you think your company could be eligible for an award or would like to find out more about how foreign languages could help provide a competitive edge, phone 0117 921 7171. (By the way, that's what it says above in German.)

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Department of Trade and Industry

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| FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| STERLING | | | | DOLLAR | | DMARKS | |
| Country | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | Spot |
| US | 1.5744 | 11-8 | 33-30 | 1.0000 | - | - | 0.7198 |
| Canada | 2.1487 | 7-17 | 22-37 | 1.2672 | 14-10 | 45-48 | 0.6784 |
| Germany | 2.2046 | 49-43 | 144-134 | 1.4014 | 21-19 | 62-69 | 1.0000 |
| France | 7.7450 | 49-42 | 744-134 | 4.9234 | 63-75 | 180-200 | 3.6180 |
| Italy | 2212.42 | 79-95 | 241.2655 | 1600.2 | 62-63 | 187-199 | 1161.04 |
| Japan | 162.12 | 84-80 | 268.2555 | 101.70 | 46-45 | 145-143 | 72.69 |
| ECU | 1.2072 | 10-4 | 27-21 | 1.2064 | -1.5405 | -1.5415 | 0.9476 |
| Stagflation | 45.305 | 12-7 | 32-24 | 26.79 | 52-32 | 14-70 | 30.1614 |
| Denmark | 8.5424 | 98-55 | 250-155 | 5.4238 | 21-1 | 45-45 | 3.8000 |
| Netherlands | 2.4722 | 80-51 | 176-163 | 1.5706 | 27-24 | 80-74 | 1.1202 |
| Ireland | 0.9753 | 10-8 | 24-21 | 1.1600 | 3-6 | 3-8 | 2.2627 |
| Norway | 9.7634 | 145-89 | 414-318 | 1.9380 | 47-22 | 133-93 | 4.4329 |
| Spain | 181.89 | 41-34 | 132-148 | 121.82 | 38-54 | 109-112 | 67.20 |
| Sweden | 10.423 | 16-22 | 45-56 | 8.8160 | 150-162 | 420-478 | 4.7323 |
| Switzerland | 1.7914 | 71-65 | 208-197 | 1.1392 | 37-35 | 107-104 | 0.8136 |
| Australia* | 2.0826 | 13-20 | 39-48 | 0.7525 | 12-6 | 35-38 | 1.0584 |
| Hong Kong | 12.1788 | 100-77 | 283-218 | 7.7220 | 10-10 | 5-25 | 5.5169 |
| Malaysia | 3.9536 | 264-7 | 259-8 | 2.9385 | 5-15 | 40-55 | 1.8108 |
| New Zealand* | 2.3865 | 21-37 | 77-102 | 0.6562 | 14-11 | 40-35 | 0.9163 |
| Saudi Arabia | 5.5047 | 50-13 | 148-53 | 3.7500 | 1-3 | 5-10 | 2.6747 |
| Singapore | 2.2246 | 57-53 | 220-177 | 1.4765 | 40-30 | 102-88 | 0.8885 |

| OTHER SPOT RATES | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Dollar |
| Argentina | 1.5745 | 1 | Nigeria | 120.108 | 41.75 | | |
| Austria | 15.4388 | 0.8215 | Greece | 0.02553 | 7.3645 | | |
| Brazil | 1.513657 | 0.8613 | Pakistan | 43.9433 | 51.75 | | |
| China | 13.08635 | 6.3 | Philippines | 40.7323 | 23.87 | | |
| Egypt | 5.535817 | 3.3615 | Portugal | 232.54 | 147.68 | | |
| Fiji | 6.6407 | 4.2170 | Qatar | 5.7785 | 3.8590 | | |
| Ghana | 2101.8575 | 1300.00 | Rwanda | 7107.263 | 4514 | | |
| Greece | 368.94 | 230.93 | South Africa | 5.7790 | 2.6550 | | |
| India | 65.4576 | 35.45 | Taiwan | 42.25 | 76.92 | | |
| Kenya | 0.7168 | 0.20865 | UAE | 5.7870 | 4.9710 | | |

Note: Forward rates quoted from right to left as of a discount from spot rates. The rightmost figure is for flight rates at a premium from air mail rates. *Other rates depend on exchange. Source: Reuters, Standard & Poor's, Wall Street Journal. For the latest forward exchange rates call 0208 260 1523. Call rate 30p per minute. Usd/sterling 1.2090, other rates vary.

TOURIST RATES

| Euros | Euros | Euros | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| Australia (Dollar) | 8,0250 | France (French) | 7,4600 | New Zealand (Dollars) | 2,3350 |
| Austria (Schillings) | 14,8200 | Greece (Mark) | 2,1250 | Norway (Kroner) | 9,4700 |
| Belgium (Franc) | 43,8900 | Greece (Czechoslovakia) | 356,0000 | Portugal (Escudos) | 236,0000 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 2,1000 | Hong Kong (Dollar) | 12,0000 | Spain (Pesetas) | 185,0000 |
| Cyprus (Pounds) | 0,8200 | Ireland (Pounds) | 0,9450 | Sweden (Kroner) | 10,2600 |
| Denmark (Kroner) | 8,2000 | Italy (Lira) | 2507,0000 | Switzerland (Francs) | 1,7200 |
| Holland (Guilder) | 2,3860 | Japan (Yen) | 156,0000 | United Kingdom (Pounds) | 75480,0000 |
| Finland (Mark) | 5,5600 | Malta (Lira) | 0,8400 | United States (Dollars) | 1,5425 |

INTEREST RATES

SOURCE: HSBC Markets Research

MONEY MARKET RATES

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|---------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Interbank Sterling CDS | \$14 | \$12 | \$104 | \$110 | \$104 | \$110 | \$104 |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Local Authority Dept | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Discount / Interest Dept | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Treasury Bills (Buy) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dollar Cds | - | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| ECU Linked Dep | - | - | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |

INTEREST RATE FUTURES

| | price | for day | traded | Interest |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|
| Long Gilt (Dec 95) | 105.07 | 105.25 | 65599 | 104881 |
| German Bond (Dec 95) | 98.37 | 98.55 | 168317 | 201986 |
| 1.6 Bond (Dec 95) | 121.48 | 121.66 | 121.30 | 4520 |
| Italian Bond (Dec 95) | 101.93 | 101.75 | 99.82 | 80520 |
| 3M Sterling (Mar 95) | 93.30 | 93.30 | 93.20 | 9075 |
| 3M Euro S (Dec 95) | 94.22 | 94.43 | 93.35 | 18453 |
| | | | 0 | 85031 |
| | | | | 110 |

ECU **[Dec 99]** **94.22** **94.25** **94.16**

| | [May 95] | 94.43 | 94.46 | 94.41 | .997 | 3865 |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Euro SP | [Dec 95] | 97.87 | 97.89 | 97.82 | 4310 | 21818 |
| FT-SE 100 | [Dec 95] | 3533.0 | 3544.0 | 3518.0 | 11888 | 55841 |
| FT-SE 250 | [Dec 95] | 3910.0 | 3975.0 | 3925.0 | 50 | 3637 |
| Borsa | [Dec 95] | 88.38 | 89.45 | 88.82 | 30417 | 33944 |

Liffe FT-SE INDEX OPTION

| Settlement price: 3520.0 | closing offer price | Cash/Pot | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Series | 3450 | 3500 | 3550 | 3600 | Total/vote |
| November | 96 / 23 | 60 / 39 | 36 / 68 | 18 / 102 | -- |
| December | 131 / 47 | 99 / 66 | 69 / 89 | 46 / 118 | -- |
| January | 124 / 63 | 124 / 83 | 96 / 106 | 74 / 135 | -- |
| February | 176 / 73 | 145 / 93 | 116 / 116 | 94 / 144 | -- |

INDUSTRIAL METALS - Lp

| Metals | Cash | 3 mths | Volume | LME Stocks | chg | P/M Fcs Jcs | \$ | £ |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------|------------|-------|-------------|--------|--------|
| Alu HG | 1656-6.5 | 1693-94 | 45533 | 530,625 | + 265 | | | |
| Alu Alloy | 1400-10 | 1440-50 | 1800 | 48,400 | + 40 | Platinum | 410.00 | 260.75 |
| Platinum | 1400-10 | 1440-40 | 1000 | 449,107 | - 40 | Palladium | 174.50 | 85.55 |

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|----|
| Lead | 706-07 | 686-87 | 8 |
| Nickel | 8890-900 | 8840-50 | 17 |
| Tin | 6285-85 | 6340-45 | 8 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Mar | 853 | Jan | 2314 |
| May | 988 | Mar | 2258 |
| Vol. | 5,734 | Vol. | 4,867 |

| Vol. | U.S. \$/ton | Vol. | 4,000 | Vol. | 50 | Vol. | 174 | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| White Sugar | | Raw Sugar | | Freight | | Wheat | | Corn | |
| LCE | \$/Tonne | LCE | Cents/lb | LCE | \$/100pt | LCE | \$/Tonne | CBOT | Cents/bushel |
| Dec | 348.30 | Jan | 12.35 | Oct | 1560 | Nov | 121.60 | HI - LO | Sett. |
| Mar | 328.90 | Mar | 10.90 | Nov | 1485 | Jan | 123.96 | Dec 329.2-329.2 | 329.4 |
| May | 323.10 | May | 11.85 | Vol. | 229 | Mar | 125.85 | Mar 329.0-325.4 | 325.6 |
| Vol. | 2,422 | Vol. | 0 | Index | 1575 | Vol | 274 | May 330.0-338.0 | 336.2 |

Dec Meise (No.3) - Shonnie 16
Coxes (1) Shonnie 156

Brant Crude (Saskatchewan) Gasoil

| IEPE | £/bbl | "Chg Yr ago" | IEP | close | "Chg | Span | Spot Crf | North West Europe | | |
|------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Dec | 16.33 | + 0.26 | 16.22 | Nov | 152.25 | + 0.25 | Dec | 17.80 | Landed Gasoline | 179 - 177 |
| Jan | 16.14 | + 0.22 | 16.18 | Dec | 151.75 | + 2.25 | Jan | 17.35 | Naphtha | 154 - 158 |
| Feb | 16.00 | + 0.20 | 16.13 | Jan | 151.75 | + 2.00 | Feb | 17.25 | EC Gasoil | 154 - 158 |
| Vol: | 48,178 | Index: | 101.00 | Vol: | 15,600 | | Mar | 17.15 | Heavy Fuel Oil | 185 - 187 |

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Index | 1970=100 | 180.88 |
| Agricultural | 1970=100 | 271.88 |
| Energy | 1970=100 | 57.21 |

| | 1983-1984 | 1984-1985 | 1985-1986 | 1986-1987 | 1987-1988 | 1988-1989 | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Energy | 1883-1980 | 57.84 | + 0.15 | 58.95 | - 1.70 | 61.18 | + 5.29 |
| Industrial Metals | 1977-1980 | 192.70 | + 0.65 | 217.93 | + 11.57 | 191.13 | + 0.92 |
| Livestock | 1970-1980 | 180.11 | + 0.14 | 183.12 | - 1.94 | 188.30 | + 7.02 |
| Precious Metals | 1973-1980 | 490.17 | + 0.28 | 487.21 | + 0.61 | 498.65 | + 1.71 |

Source: Colliers, Saks & Co. "S&C" is a trademark and service mark of Colliers, Saks & Co. *Data as of 30 October '88

| | Price | Yield | Score |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| Abbey Life Equity S4 | 240.5 | 253.2 | London & Man Flexible |
| Abbey Life Managed S4 | 700.3 | 737.2 | London Life Equity |
| Abbey National Managed | 125.5 | 132.2 | London Life Mixed |

| | | | | | | | 627.60 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--|--------|
| Abbey National UK Equity | 129.3 | 192.5 | MSI Managed Bond | 941.0 | 508.7 | | |
| Albany Equity | 1077.7 | 1785.0 | MSI Recovery Bond | 629.0 | 870.5 | | |
| Albany Multiple Investments | 1024.8 | 1152.0 | Midland Balanced | 69.1 | 23.8 | | |
| Allied Dunbar Distribution | 24.4 | 26.7 | Midland Fixed Interest | 70.7 | 41.9 | | |
| Allied Dunbar Equity | 1523.2 | 1603.4 | Midland UK Equity | 103.7 | 109.2 | | |
| Allied Dunbar G4 High Inv | 52.3 | 34.1 | Midwest Brown Managed | 123.0 | 130.0 | | |
| Allied Dunbar Managed | 1170.8 | 1222.5 | Midwest Grey Managed | 115.8 | 122.9 | | |
| Allied Dunbar Premium | 801.1 | 632.8 | NorthWest UK Equity | 104.4 | 155.2 | | |
| AXA ESU Best Fund | 75.4 | 80.6 | NorthWest Union (MF) Managed | 3410.0 | 1619.6 | | |
| AXA ESU High Income S6 | 114.0 | 101.1 | NorthWest Union (MF) Profits | 1508.0 | 161.0 | | |
| AXA ESU Mid Cap Equity S6 | 1028.8 | 1139.8 | Nonlife Union Managed | 153.5 | 163.14 | | |
| Barclays Equity | 925.1 | 978.0 | Nonlife Union With Profits | 154.0 | 163.14 | | |
| Barclays International | 421.1 | 442.3 | NPI Managed | 521.0 | 540.2 | | |
| Barclays Managed | 552.0 | 522.3 | Pension Equity Net | 284.4 | 300.6 | | |
| Black Horse Income S2 | 624.18 | 657.55 | Provider Mutual Equity | 250.1 | 262.3 | | |
| Black Horse Income Managed Inv S2 | 618.02 | 546.12 | Provider Mutual Managed | 510.0 | 522.5 | | |
| Cl. Managed Stages | 770.1 | 810.0 | Prudential Am Fund Managed | 371.8 | 386.4 | | |
| Critical Medical Fund Equity | 351.2 | 369.8 | Prudential R. Managed S2 | 860.2 | 912.0 | | |
| Critical Med Fnd Equity | 309.5 | 321.5 | Royal Life Managed | 413.6 | 435.3 | | |
| Corporate Health Fund Equity | 1909.8 | 2002.0 | Royal Scottish Green Managed | 175.3 | 184.6 | | |
| Corporation Fund Equity S2 | 1025.5 | 1877.3 | Royal Scottish LIF Equity | 175.6 | 184.8 | | |
| Crusade Managed | 538.5 | 571.2 | Scotian American Managed | 847.8 | 861.9 | | |
| CU Price Managed | 430.8 | 453.2 | Scotian Equitable Managed | 503.5 | 510.8 | | |
| CU Prices UK Equity | 535.1 | 520.5 | Scotish Equitable Mixed | 256.7 | 274.1 | | |
| CU With Profits | 128.9 | 125.5 | Scotish Life Managed | 267.4 | 274.7 | | |
| Eagle Star With Profits | 198.0 | 143.2 | Scotish Mutual Savings | 249.3 | 252.5 | | |
| Eagle Star Performance | 142.6 | 150.2 | Scottish Prev Inst Blue Chip | 161.0 | 171.8 | | |
| Fidelity Prev Managed Mixed | 322.9 | 343.1 | Scottish Widows International | 531.7 | 550.8 | | |
| Fidelity Prev UK Equity | 438.1 | 461.2 | Standard Life Equity | 510.0 | 517.0 | | |
| Fidelity Prev With Profits | 163.0 | 202.3 | Standard Life European | 183.1 | 193.0 | | |
| GA United With Profits | 145.4 | 153.1 | Standard Life Inst Ect | 173.0 | 183.1 | | |
| Gen Managed | 324.5 | 341.7 | Standard Life Managed | 765.3 | 805.6 | | |
| GME LLA Equity | 1053.0 | 1151.4 | Sax Alliance Equity | 586.1 | 614.9 | | |
| GME LLA Managed | 660.6 | 727.0 | Sax Alliance Managed | 725.0 | 761.7 | | |
| GME LLA Premium | 714.0 | 751.8 | Sax Life Dold Distribution | 235.0 | 260.0 | | |
| GME Special Equity | 666.1 | 704.9 | Sax Life Distribution | 236.0 | 261.1 | | |
| GME Special Managed A | 661.8 | 616.7 | Sax Life Equity | 157.0 | 169.2 | | |
| GME Life Critical Incorporated S3 | 872.3 | 645.6 | Sax Life Managed | 640.5 | 596.5 | | |
| HartfordSt G4 Managed | 281.3 | 177.5 | Sax Life/Can Century Equity | 129.7 | | | |
| HartfordSt Managed Inv Mkt Acc | 570.7 | 304.6 | Sax Life/Can Century Managed | 128.6 | | | |
| HartfordSt Managed S5 | 487.2 | 501.0 | Sax Life/Can Equity | 575.0 | 605.5 | | |
| Legal & Gars Equity S2 | 1243.0 | 1204.0 | Sax Life/Can Managed | 413.0 | 435.5 | | |
| Legal & Gars International S5 | 568.1 | 558.0 | Sax Life/Can Savings | 395.0 | 416.0 | | |

sport

STATE OF THE UNION

English rugby is in turmoil following the decisions to go professional, but not to pay club players until next season. The *Independent* asked five key questions to representatives of the 10 First Division clubs. Interviews by Liz Searl

| | Should club rugby go professional immediately or wait until the next season? | Do you think the 120-day rule should be: a) reduced; b) increased; c) retained; d) abolished? | Should rugby introduce a kind of transfer fee system that would financially compensate the club which is losing the player? | How do you judge the RFU's handling of the move to professionalism this season? a) Handled it well; b) Handled it badly; c) Too early to tell. | Can you conceive a situation where the leading clubs break away from the RFU? |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| BATH John Quin, Secretary | Immediately. I think the mood is such that it is all gaining momentum and now is the right time. | If you just abolish it it will start a flood away of players, but I am not sure that it [the rule] will last too long. Ideally I would reduce the number of days but keep the rule. | Definitely, it is a very complex issue. We have got to be able to put some sort of figure on what a player's worth. But if you had a system by which the club received some sort of a transfer fee it would prevent wild bidding and the club would get something back for what they have put into that player – especially the clubs in the lower divisions. We have already had a lot of briefings from soccer on this subject. | We don't have the fifth amendment in this country, do we? To be fair, since Tony Hallatt took the chair things have moved much better, but I like to see what the commission has to say before I decide on my answer to that question. They have certainly put a lot of effort into their work. I'll wait to see what they come up with first. | It is a possibility, but at this stage it is not a probability. |
| BRISTOL Dave Tyler, Club director | It should come in concurrently with the internationals being paid. | While there is a moratorium it should stay where it is. Once it is off and players have contracts, then it is likely to be deemed a restraint of trade, so it should be very much reduced – there will have to be some period of waiting while paperwork is sorted out. | I think that is inevitable, but I also think that we want to try – as no sport has got this right yet – to devise a system where the fees are limited so the smaller clubs are not cut out of the market. | I think to a large extent we have all been dropped in it by the IRB. It was a surprise to everybody that they should announce that everybody should be paid without announcing where that money would be coming from. I think the RFU made the best of a bad job. | It is conceivable, but highly unlikely. A set up like football's Premier League would be more realistic. |
| GLOUCESTER Mike Coley, Club director | It should go professional immediately, because you can't put a stop to things that are already happening. | It should be abolished, because it is a restraint of trade. If we are professional then you can have a regulation that prohibits free movement. | Yes. We have been discussing this at the First Division Club Conference. And we believe that there should be some recompense to a club for the loss of a player. | In such circumstances crept up on them and they hadn't the clue what to do. I am critical of how they have done it, and I feel the moratorium that they imposed has done is allowed the predators from the north to profit from it. | We are not going to break away from the RFU. I can, however, see a situation where we would be in charge of our own destiny, in the distant future, rather like the current Premier League in football – negotiating our own television and sponsorship deals. But I think you will find that the majority of us will want to stay with the RFU. |
| HARLEQUINS Dick Best, Director of rugby | It already has, hasn't it? Certainly as far as Newcastle are concerned it seems to have gone professional already. It [the moratorium] is a good thing but they have got a commission of laymen together, who are doing it in their spare time, and they won't have covered anywhere near all the problems. There are a hell of a lot of problems to cover. These men are life's second XV, who don't understand the game, and are trying to make decisions that no-one will have any respect for. | It should be abolished forthwith. In the rest of the rugby world there is no such thing as registration and the governing body of the game has put it in people's laps. Maybe it could be replaced with something like a transfer cut-off in February. | Without a doubt. I think we have to learn from soccer that if you buy a player from a Third Division club, the club must be reimbursed. If I sell a player I would demand a sell-on fee of 15 per cent. | I have one word for you, and that is toilet. What do you find in the toilets that you wipe your backsides with? They haven't got a clue. There are so few of them with any commercial knowledge. The people on the commission looking into it have all been out of the game for a long while. I think it is disgraceful that they can put such people on there who have been in institutions all of their lives and who will only make a fudge of it. We need fully paid professional people who have had some knowledge of professional sport and rugby union. | I can see a situation rather like 100 years ago – we are getting to a stage where the First Division may be forced to break away because of the incompetence of the governing body. That is, unless the game is run by people who are at the top end of it and are aware of the problems we are suffering. |
| LEICESTER Tony Russ, Director of rugby | It would be better to wait until next season but I don't think that's possible. I don't think that clubs have had sufficient time to respond to a totally unexpected decision made by the international board. Therefore, by allowing unrestrained professionalism straight away, there is distinct advantage to those clubs with multi-millionaires behind them. Other clubs need more time to reorganise their finances. It is very important that change is properly managed and controlled. At the moment there are no rules no regulations and no guidance. I think in the real world it [going professional] will happen more quickly than that. | It is a bit ironic that for years all the clubs higher up the league were picking up players from lower leagues, and now the attention has turned to players in the same league. | Yes, I think it is inevitable. Clubs who lose players in the middle of contracts have the right to be compensated. Ideally there will be controls, like a transfer cap, to stop prices escalating out of control like football, but our legal team have said this may be illegal. If a player comes to the end of his contract and wants to move then I think it's a different matter, but then that will lead to clavars wanting short contracts and clubs wanting long contracts – another conflict. | They set up a commission. I think while it has been working there has been a total lack of help and guidance and the help to clubs as to how to handle the situation was not good. The constitution of the committee set up was insulting to First Division clubs – the people who run the clubs. I think they have done the right thing but in the wrong way. | That's a question to which we would be silly to say no, because I can see almost anything happening in the future. I think it is very undesirable and it will only happen if this further disengagement between clubs and the governing body continues. All it takes is better communication. I don't know anyone who really wants it to happen. The question is rather rhetorical – I could conceive Mrs Thatcher coming back as the next prime minister, but I wouldn't really expect it to happen. |
| ORRELL | Wait until next season. | Retained. | Yes. | Handled it badly. | Yes |
| SALE Paul Turner, Coach | Immediately. It has gone professional all over the world then you can't stop it in one country. | I think it should be abolished. I understand the make-up of it initially, but I feel at this moment in time we have just got to take a long look at it and go back; maybe to the system of summer signings that ran before, or even having a one club a season contract. | Inevitably we will have to. We are following down the road of rugby league and football. Rugby union has got a major problem at the moment in Great Britain in that it has to be seen to be entertaining, otherwise the public won't watch because you won't get the money to pay the players. We are now having to think about marketing the game. | In fairness to them, the IRB is the world body that made the announcement on 25 August this year – a decision that shocked a lot of people, but I am sure they must have had some idea. What they have been doing since is stalling, and I do understand that there are quite a few people with their heads screwed on within the number of 57, but they need to give the clubs a say, especially after they have actually asked to do so. | Breakaway at this moment is a bit strong a word, but you cannot have the tail wagging the dog. The clubs should have more of a say. I do understand it came at a really late time in the summer, but there are other things, like the yellow card system. A lot of these people have been too long out of the game to make these decisions. |
| SARACENS Mark Evans, Coach | Immediately. | For British players I think it is illegal, so I don't see how you can retain it if the game goes professional. As part of what we have to set up a system whereby people are contracted. So if you wish to move clubs will be compensated. | Yes, eventually this will have to come into place. | I think that Tony Hallatt and others have been placed in an impossible position because of mishandling by the other officials in the past 20 years. | Yes, it is possible, but it is unlikely. |
| WASPS Jeff Probyn, Chairman of rugby | It's too late it has already gone professional. | There needs to be some restriction on players. I would increase it so that once the player has played for one club he cannot play for another that season – like a season's embargo. | It is an inevitable consequence of professionalism and contracts. I am not saying that I think this is a positive or a negative thing, I am saying that it is inevitable. | It has been handled with the clubs in mind, but it could have advanced a little bit quicker. They imposed the moratorium, which is what the clubs wanted, although the best thing would have been if they had imposed something at an understanding with the clubs, but they failed to impose that. | No. Because they haven't got the financial resources to do it – even Newcastle. If they did it's unlikely that they could [go after] players in the same way. If it came to straight competition the RFU has got more money than the clubs, and the clubs would also be competing with the Rugby League, too. |
| WEST HARTLEPOOL Steve Smith, Press officer | It should wait until next season, on the basis that nobody had budgeted for it and could not be expected to find the resources to pay players. It is just the fact that everybody has been caught out by the decision. It is an expensive business preparing budgets for a First Division club – it is like running a company – and you can't automatically pluck money out of thin air to pay people. | It is a poor rule. I think it needs abolishing but there needs to be some sort of control. I don't see anything wrong in the business of people playing for a club in a season and not being able to transfer until the next season. | I think it probably will have to in the end. Clearly some clubs with far more resources than others. If I was a cynic I would say it could lead to clubs being preyed on by others. | It is slightly early to tell. I think that they have left themselves open to criticism by not having representation of particular geographical regions and, equally, they have some people on there with no real knowledge of the reality of running a modern club. It is a great mistake not to have more representation from major clubs. When the commission publishes its results it will be easier to judge how successful it has been. However, I think that they have lost the opportunity to talk about it with representatives of certain First Division clubs. | Yes. I don't think it is likely to happen, though, because ultimately the senior players, the better players, want to play for England and the RFU has that ultimate sanction. But the RFU has to be far more responsive to clubs' needs and they have, over a period of three to four years, made a number of decisions without consultation. And First Division annoyance is because these things are presented as a fait accompli, and they can no longer go down the line of the Sky TV deal and the introduction of non-English regulations. The competition sub-committee is made up of very poor people. |

Schumacher and Hill bring out the white flags

Motor racing

DAVID TREMAYNE
reports from Suzuka

As Michael Schumacher withdrew allegations made against Damon Hill's recent tactics in the Pacific Grand Prix, the Briton yesterday indulged in a brief spot of nostalgia to relish his tense 3.5sec victory over the German in last year's Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. That success prolonged their fight un-

till the now infamous showdown in Adelaide.

"I wouldn't say it was my best race," Hill said, "but it was one of the most exciting. It was very, very tricky and conditions were appalling. Given that it was such a crucial race, it was very satisfying to win it. I think I drove that last lap better than I have ever driven in my life."

Hill knows must again raise his game to a similar level, but seems relaxed enough: "I've got another opportunity

here to win another grand prix and I'm still up for that. But I don't feel that I need to prove anything to anybody. I feel completely happy with myself."

He refused to comment on suggestions that his recent performances have reduced the Williams team's faith in him, but was candid enough to admit: "This has been a tough season and it hasn't all gone to plan. There have been more downs than ups, but I now understand more about the pressures in-

volved in trying to win a championship than I did last year. This year the championship has been fought over the entire season rather than the last few races and I think I have benefited from the experience. I am not disillusioned, nor do I feel negatively about it at all."

Schumacher has been more magnanimous in Suzuka as he was in victory at Aida last week, where he and Hill had words over tactics immediately after the race.

"Having seen the video of the race, I can now see that Damon did not do anything wrong," he said with contrition that some feels does not come easily.

With the embers dying, Hill preferred not to fan the fire. "I am not going to comment on that. The championship is over, it's history. I am thinking of these two races and next season already. I am very motivated to win and I am getting hungrier and hungrier. I'm almost gasping for a win now!"

While the two established stars wave white flags, two others returned to the Formula One arena. Mika Häkkinen is back at McLaren after his recent operation for appendicitis and ready to replace the Danish driver, Jan Magnussen, who made such an impressive debut at Aida.

The Austrian, Karl Wendlinger, also makes a return for the Sauber team. While Häkkinen nurses physical scars, Wendlinger's are mental, fol-

owing an accident in practice at Monaco in 1994 which left him in a coma for three weeks. He returned to drive in the first four races of the year, but was rested again when he proved unable to match the speed of his team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen. While Hill covets victory, a finish in the top six would not only afford Wendlinger a similar level of elation, but could throw his career a vital lifeline.

He returns at the expense of the Frenchman Jean-Christophe Boullion, and after recovering his form and his confidence in a series of fast tests recently, he wants to re-establish himself to claim a seat at Sauber for 1996.

"It is the sole opportunity to find out for sure whether Karl has regained his former competitiveness," Peter Sauber, the team boss, said. "He has impressed us when testing for the team, but a test is not a race."

He returns at the expense of the Frenchman Jean-Christophe Boullion, and after recovering his form and his confidence in a series of fast tests recently, he wants to re-establish himself to claim a seat at Sauber for 1996.

tompson ste

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS WEEKEND / Windsurfing
Inland Nationals
Graham Water

The circular shape and good size of Graham Water at Huntington, Cambridgeshire, this weekend some 200 sailors will contest the inland Nationals. The race is the final qualifying round for places in Britain's team for the World Championships in Israel next March. Guy Cribb, the Pool sailor, looks a likely candidate. He defends his heavyweight division title and already this season he has carried off the National Series. Jane Clague, from Cheshire, is on course to take the women's class, while in the men's lightweight division, Mark Kay, from Manchester, and Ben Proffitt, the leading youth sailor from Shropshire, are neck and neck for a place in the British squad. The colourful massed starts are a feature of the racing, which starts at 11.30am tomorrow and 1pm Sunday. Spectators are welcome. Tel: 01480 510473.

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

TODAY

RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Centenary Champion

Stones London & Oldham (Orrellton) (A),

Barbizon Friends, Prenton Grand (Marlford)

Dartmouth, Derry, the Eng. No 1,

heads the entry in the first of the five rounds

of the season. Starts at 3pm tomorrow.

TOMORROW

Football: FA Cup, Bradford (A),

Leeds (A), Liverpool (A),

Sheffield Wednesday (A),

Southampton (A),

Swindon Town (A), Walsall (A),

West Ham (A), Wrexham (A),

Wolverhampton (A), Yeovil (A),

Youghal (A),

Young Boys (A),

Zagreb (A). Starts at 2pm.

SWIMMING: British Masters (A),

London (A),

Nottingham (A),

Sheffield (A),

Southampton (A),

Stoke (A),

Swindon (A),

Worcester (A),

Yarmouth (A).

Starts at 1pm.

SWIMMING: British Masters (A),

London (A),

Nottingham (A),

Sheffield (A),

Southampton (A),

Stoke (A),

Swindon (A),

Worcester (A),

Yarmouth (A).

Starts at 1pm.

SWIMMING: British Masters (A),

London (A),

Nottingham (A),

Sheffield (A),

Southampton (A),

Stoke (A),

Swindon (A),

Worcester (A),

Yarmouth (A).

Starts at 1pm.

SWIMMING: British Masters (A),

London (A),

Nottingham (A),

Sheffield (A),

Southampton (A),



Toovey: inspirational

Toovey toughs it out in contemporary style

Last year in Sydney, a book was published celebrating the hardest men that the game's history has produced.

Its subjects were a mixture of hulking monsters and ageing but still teak-hard giants - forwards to a man - but the players they chose to launch the book and epitomise the virtue of contemporary toughness was a scrum-half standing a fraction over 5ft 6in who looked like a half-grown Milky Bar Kid let loose among the adults.

It will come as no surprise to anyone who watched his display against New Zealand on Sunday that the player in question was Geoff Toovey - described by his coach, Bob Fulton, after

that match as the best, pound-for-pound, that the code has produced.

Toovey is an inspirational club captain for Fulton at Manly, so he is well used to the idea that his contribution is out of all proportion to his physical stature.

There have been few half-backs who have tackled forwards with the relish or regularity that Toovey brings to the job. For his club, he is also a creative mainspring, although it has taken a political upheaval to win him a regular place in the Australia side and a change of role to maximise his value during the World Cup campaign.

With scrum-halves like Ricky Stuart and Allan Langer available, Toovey had been limited to just two Test appearances, both against Papua New Guinea in 1991 when the other two were injured, until this year.

Then, with Langer and Stuart ruled out by their Super League affiliations, he played in all three victories over New Zealand, making him a certainty for this trip.

An opening match defeat at Wembley, however, and the presence of a gifted rival like Andrew Johns breathing down

his neck threatened to make him a selection casualty, just as Langer was after the first Test there last year.

Fulton, a coach who does not make changes lightly, came up with a different and largely unsuspected option: Stowman as hooker and extra playmaker to help out Brad Fittler, and using Toovey at acting half-back.

Toovey still feeds the scrums, but at the play-the-ball he now has the extra duty of being the first man to handle the ball before it goes to a ground-making

forward, or to Fittler and Johns to open up play.

To regard that as a demotion would be to misunderstand the nature of modern rugby league, in which nothing is more central to the success of a side than a good service from acting half-back.

Fulton was delighted with that aspect of Toovey's play against New Zealand, plus the way that he was able to pick his moment to use his own deceptive pace over a short distance to make breaks through the heart of the Kiwi defence.

If Australia get England on

the back-foot at Wembley, it is a strong likelihood that the blond hair and boyish countenance of Geoff Toovey will be in the vanguard.

That was undoubtedly the case when a British international side first came across Toovey, then still in his teens, on their 1988 tour.

Toovey, looking even more like the runt of the litter in those days, sparked Manly to an embarrassing 30-0 defeat of the Lions and there has been a healthy respect for him in Britain ever since.

The recurring question in the hard school of Winsted Cup rugby, however, was how long a player of his stature and

style could survive head-to-head confrontation with players who towered above him. Other scrum-halves advised him to change that style for the sake of longevity, but Toovey never has.

Now 26 and a survivor of shoulder problems that would have finished the career of less resolute characters, Toovey has answered any doubts.

The temptation to run at the little fellow comes naturally to rugby league players, but experience has taught that they get little change out of this particular member of the breed.

England have to find Australian weaknesses tomorrow, Geoff Toovey, even in a

Larder leaves the door open

DAVE HADFIELD

The England coach, Phil Larder, has made one change in his side to face Australia in the final of the Halifax Centenary World Cup at Wembley tomorrow, but he has left a place on the bench open for the recovering pectoral-muscle victim, Gary Connolly.

The Wigan centre, Barrie-Jon Mather, who played there in the tournament opener, is recalled in place of Keighley's Nick Pinkin, who was preferred for the semi-final against Wales.

"I put B-J on the bench for that match because Nick had played so well against South Africa," Larder said. "But I was a bit disappointed last week that Nick didn't get the ball enough and didn't go looking for it. B-J's defence is stronger, but if I felt that Nick was strong and confident enough to go and get the ball at this level, he would be in."

Still in with a stubborn, lingering chance of being in that

is Connolly, Mather's Wigan team-mate, ruled out of any involvement in the World Cup before it even began by a chest specialist. Larder has refused to give up hope that as strong and determined an athlete as Connolly could have defied the odds and accordingly named only two substitutes forwards Mick Cassidy and Chris Joynt.

The decision on who will fill the other two vacancies will be left as late as possible and will be made then on what Larder calls "gut feeling". It could, he says, be a matter of "how much colour he has in his cheeks".

Once niggling injuries to Jason Robinson and Andy Farrell had responded to treatment, the rest of the team picked itself, although Farrell's groin strain is still causing enough concern for Bobbie Goulding to be given the goal-kicking duties.

Larder has studiously kept himself and his team out of the controversy generated by his Australian counterpart Bob Fulton's fury over the refereeing of their semi-final against New Zealand. Fulton faces an International Board inquiry in remarks he is alleged to have made to the tournament referee's director, Greg Allum.

"That's the way Bob Fulton operates," Larder said. "He has always been a coach that has tried to put referees under as much pressure as possible."

"We don't mind who the referee is, because we have never come across a bad official. They are all doing their best. They have their little idiosyncrasies, but you have to be smart enough to adapt to them. We have concentrated on our own preparation and we are ready. There has never been a better time for us to play Australia."

ENGLAND (v Australia, Halifax Centenary World Cup final, Wembley, Saturday, 28 October, 1pm, BBC2, 10pm, BBC1, 11pm, BBC2, 11.30pm, BBC2, 12.30am, BBC2, 1.30am, BBC2, 2.30am, BBC2, 3am, BBC2, 3.30am, BBC2, 4am, BBC2, 4.30am, BBC2, 5am, BBC2, 5.30am, BBC2, 6am, BBC2, 6.30am, BBC2, 7am, BBC2, 7.30am, BBC2, 8am, BBC2, 8.30am, BBC2, 9am, BBC2, 9.30am, BBC2, 10am, BBC2, 10.30am, BBC2, 11am, BBC2, 11.30am, BBC2, 12pm, BBC2, 12.30pm, BBC2, 1.30pm, BBC2, 2pm, BBC2, 2.30pm, BBC2, 3pm, BBC2, 3.30pm, BBC2, 4pm, BBC2, 4.30pm, BBC2, 5pm, BBC2, 5.30pm, BBC2, 6pm, BBC2, 6.30pm, BBC2, 7pm, BBC2, 7.30pm, BBC2, 8pm, BBC2, 8.30pm, BBC2, 9pm, BBC2, 9.30pm, BBC2, 10pm, BBC2, 10.30pm, BBC2, 11pm, BBC2, 11.30pm, BBC2, 12am, BBC2, 12.30am, BBC2, 1.30am, BBC2, 2am, BBC2, 2.30am, BBC2, 3am, BBC2, 3.30am, BBC2, 4am, BBC2, 4.30am, BBC2, 5am, BBC2, 5.30am, BBC2, 6am, BBC2, 6.30am, BBC2, 7am, BBC2, 7.30am, BBC2, 8am, BBC2, 8.30am, BBC2, 9am, BBC2, 9.30am, BBC2, 10am, BBC2, 10.30am, BBC2, 11am, BBC2, 11.30am, BBC2, 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SPORT

Transfer fees 'inevitable' say clubs

Rugby Union

LIZ SEARL

A football-style transfer system, with fees being paid for players, is inevitable in rugby union, according to an *Independent* survey of the leading clubs.

The survey (see page 30) also revealed that seven out of the 10 First Division clubs in the Courage League could conceive of a situation in which the

leading clubs would break away from the Rugby Football Union, and that a majority of clubs felt the game should have gone fully professional immediately, rather than wait until next season.

Opinion on the 120-day rule was divided, with half of those questioned hoping it should be abolished, two saying it should be reduced, two saying it should be increased and one hoping it would be retained.

Criticism of the RFU's handling of the move to professionalism was strong, with seven clubs finding fault with some aspect of it.

However, the greatest degree of unanimity came on the question of transfers, an issue that goes to the heart of the sport since it abandoned its amateur ethos in August.

"I think it is inevitable," Tony Russ, the director of rugby at Leicester, said. "Clubs who lose

players in the middle of contracts have the right to be compensated. Ideally, there will be controls, like a transfer cap, to stop prices escalating out of control like football, but our legal team have said this may be illegal."

John Quin, the Bath club secretary, said that if clubs received "some sort of a transfer fee, it would prevent wild bidding and the club would get something back for what they have put into

that player — especially the clubs in the lower divisions."

Dick Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, advocated the introduction of a 15 per cent sell-on fee, to ensure that clubs benefit from any future transfers a player may be involved in.

"I think we have to learn from the valuable lessons that soccer gives us and if you buy a player from a Third Division club, the club must be reimbursed," he said.

Jeff Probyn, Wasps' chairman of rugby, called for some restriction on the movement of players.

"Once a player has

played for one club, he cannot play for another that season — like a season's embargo."

A plea on behalf of the First Division's smaller clubs was made by Dave Taylor, a director of Bristol. "I think that we want to try — as no sport has got it right yet — to devise a system where the fees are limited, so

the smaller clubs are not cut out of the market."

The issue of transfers and transfer fees has already been discussed by a group of First Division club representatives, set up in response to disquiet over the way the First Division had been excluded from RFU discussions. In a series of recent briefings, the "conference" invited speakers from the football world to explain and discuss their transfer system.

The clubs, however, will have to wait for an official stance on fees from the RFU until its commission delivers a verdict, due next week. "Transfer fees and the 120-day rule are being considered by the RFU's commission, and so the RFU would not discuss the matter until the commission has concluded its discussions," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

State of the union, the full survey, page 30

Sad Agassi loses his footing

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Essen

There are bad losses, there are sad losses, and there was Andre Agassi's bizarre loss to MaliVai Washington in the third round of the Eurocard Open yesterday.

The Las Vegas aspirant his 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 defeat to a recurrence of a chest muscle injury, but for many the performance will be remembered for the way Agassi threw a game by deliberately tapping a second serve long.

Agassi's early elimination, coupled with the fact that he will be unable to defend his Paris indoor title next week, could serve to hand the world No 1 status back to Pete Sampras.

Washington, who had lost six of his seven previous encounters with Agassi and is ranked No 54, was asked if he thought his opponent had tried during the concluding set. "Did he 'tank' the match? It didn't feel like that to me," the New Yorker said. "You'd better ask him."

Agassi appeared in the interview room nearly three hours after the match and announced that he would be returning to the United States for treatment, in the hope of being fit for the ATP Tour Championship in Frankfurt on 14 November and the Davis Cup final against Russia in Moscow on 27 November.

"I didn't have any expectation to win the match today after feeling the injury at 5-4 in the first set," he said, adding that he had not thought of retiring hurt. "For me, it was more professional for me to stay out there and allow the guy to have his day."

The crux came in the second set when Agassi was 1-4 down and serving at 30-40. The majority in the stadium, including Washington, assumed that Agassi had double-faulted when the "Cyclops" line machine bleeped after his second serve. The Brazilian umpire, Paolo Pereira, overruled, provoking whistles and jeers.

Two points later, a section of

the crowd cheered when Agassi, facing a second break point, missed his first serve. He responded by plonking the second serve out and tapping his raised racket in ironic applause.

"I was frustrated and depressed about the way I was feeling," Agassi said. "To give away one serve or one game wasn't even close to the issue out there."

The mood of Agassi's play began to alter after Washington saved a break point in the opening game of the second set and then produced two of his 12 aces. In the middle of the next game, Agassi began to flap — or at least the sole of his right shoe did. After being broken for 0-2, he changed into a substitute pair offered by a friend.

While it would be stretching things to suggest that Agassi was affected not only by the injury but also because the replacement shoes were white instead of the customary black, he was no longer covering the court with the same spring in his step.

Before starting the final set, Agassi put on a new pair of black shoes brought from his hotel, but that was the only change. Lacking mobility, he managed to scuff to dance in a couple of service games, but for the most part, Washington found himself dictating the points.

Agassi double-faulted twice more in the fifth game, bringing his total to six, and Washington finished the set on the second match point after 89 minutes, returning a second serve past an almost motionless opponent.

In order to regain the No 1 position at the end of this week, Sampras needs to win the tournament and collect bonus points along the way by beating players ranked in the top 15. The Wimbledon champion advanced to the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-4 victory against Australia's Mark Woodforde.

Goran Ivanisevic's four and a half years association with his coach, Bob Brett, came to an end after the gifted but eccentric Croat lost his opening match here against Martin



Foot fault: Andre Agassi hoping for a change of luck in yesterday's defeat by MaliVai Washington

Photograph: AP

Sinner, a German wild card. "This is not about Grand Slam titles or money, but the standards I must pursue in my goal

as a coach," said Brett, who guided Ivanisevic to the final of Wimbledon in 1992 and 1994. "I hope that Goran will

learn from our experiences."

Bobby Riggs, the former Wimbledon champion who later became more famous for his

so-called "battle of the sexes" with Billie Jean King, has died at the age of 77.

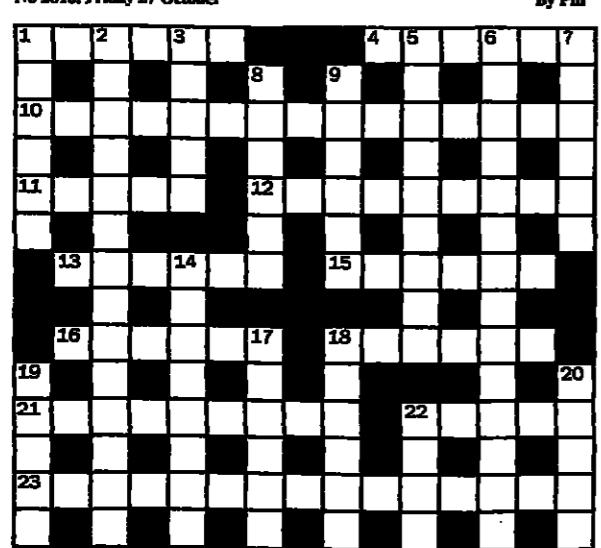
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2816, Friday 27 October

By Phi

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Pick some from among these lectures (6)
 - Love people to accept a bit of learning from a source of wisdom (6)
 - I don't care — you won't catch me near the grind-stone! (2,4,3,2,4)
 - Say fool may turn a particular colour (5)
 - Endless story about modern party-goers is coming across (9)
 - Pure hatred initially visible in class division (6)
 - What's newly routed? (6)
 - Molluscs in fix aboard ship (6)
 - Pressure of work for Member, one abandoning lover (6)
 - Oriental church festival crazed emperor curtailed (9)
 - Shrub — obstacle getting a gardener's last cut (5)
 - Necessary for the Mob? (10,3)
 - Like some blue cheese one found in meal? (6)
 - Threatening rain? Meadow's a place to take refuge (6)
 - Piece forming part of season at Aldeburgh (6)
 - Religious address over end of communion Rome's revised (6)
 - He was a mimic and made a pile (6)
 - I'm following rector's lead in church as regards sin (5)
 - Poet depicts the merry dancing round square (9)
- DOWN**
- Speak about fool's presence of mind? (6)
 - Failing to keep workforce suppressed, being easily defeated (6,5,4)
 - What may be used by artist in study involving light (6)
 - Fighter plane failing to complete final course? (5)
 - Religious address over end of communion Rome's revised (6)
 - What's newly routed? (6)
 - He was a mimic and made a pile (6)
 - What may be used by artist in study involving light (6)
 - Fighter plane failing to complete final course? (5)

Leeds undeterred by 'silly money' for Sinclair

Football

ADAM SZRETER

Leeds United yesterday confirmed their interest in the Queen's Park Rangers winger, Trevor Sinclair, which prompted the Loftus Road manager, Ray Wilkins, to put a £10m price tag on his England Under-21 international.

Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, said: "We are keen to sell a number of our players and then we will be in a position to bring other players in." Fotherby refused to name the players, but David White, Rod Wallace and Brian Deane are believed to be the men Leeds are willing to trade.

Wilkins said: "They can offer who they like, but it would take silly money to get him away from Loftus Road. As far as I'm concerned, any club wanting Trevor would have to break the British transfer record."

Manchester United's Les Chapman will be fit to play against Middlesbrough this weekend, despite breaking a bone in his wrist. The 24-year-old winger suffered the injury in training.

League gets TV deal extension

All 72 Football League clubs will meet in the next fortnight to vote on whether to accept the £120m television package put forward by the Football Association. The referendum was thrashed out as a compromise after the League's management committee failed to meet yesterday's 4pm deadline to agree to the five-year deal.

They wanted more time to consider an alternative partnership proposed by the Premier League, but we've been forced to climb down after a threatened revolt by many of the hard-up smaller clubs. They are eager to accept a package which gives the League more than double the £10m a year they receive from their current deal with ITV.

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